

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Election Firestorm

Barack Obama rejected a retired general's suggestion that John McCain's military experience didn't qualify him to be president.

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### Death Tally

Militants killed more U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan in June than in Iraq.

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### New Beijing

Beijing is getting a new look that could have been plucked from science fiction.

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Over 300 applying for 36 slots for cops, firefighters. **PAGE 2**  
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## Fund investments see slight jump in May, rocky July

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The slight jump in the Retirement Fund's overseas investments seen in May could be followed by some losses in July due to the economic fallout of the nation's sub-prime mortgage meltdown.

The Fund's investment portfolio rose by just less than 2 percent in

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Aguon

# CUC Saipan records drinking water violations in 7 months

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

**T**he Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water system on Saipan incurred several drinking water violations for total coliform bacteria during more than half the entire year of 2007.

According to CUC's latest water quality report, the utility agency had violations in the drinking water maximum contaminant level for total coliform in seven months.

The report states that the drinking wa-

ter violations were detected in the months of February, March, April, August, October, November, and December.

The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the presence of fecal

**See CUC on Page 4**

The report states that the drinking water violations were detected in the months of February, March, April, August, October, November, and December 2007.

## DPS gets 17 handguns from Guam

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will no longer have to worry looking for funds to buy guns when 20 police cadets complete the academy soon.

This, after the Guam Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and Wildlife donated to DPS their surplus stock of 17 Smith & Wesson 9mm handguns, worth a total of \$8,000.

Guam Department of Agriculture's Lt. Mike Reyes and Sgt. Mark Aguon presented the weapons to DPS Commissioner Claudio Norita yesterday.

"We're very appreciative of the assistance from the Government of Guam's Department of Agriculture Division of

**See DPS on Page 4**



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guam Department of Agriculture's Sgt. Mike Reyes and Sgt. Mark Aguon present the 17 Smith & Wesson 9mm handguns donated by the Guam Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and Wildlife to CNMI DPS during yesterday's press conference at the DPS central office in Susupe. Also in photo are Rota DPS Sgt. Eusebio Manglona and PO2 Jason Tarkong.



Norita



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# Local

## Over 300 applying for 36 slots for cops, firefighters

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Over three hundred people are applying for the slots of 20 police officers and 16 firefighters, according to Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita.

Norita told *Saipan Tribune* that 200 filled up the applications for police cadets, while over 100 submitted applications to become firefighters.

He said more applicants are still coming to DPS.

"Last week we did the agility test for the people who already passed the placement test," Norita said.

This week, DPS is going to

conduct another agility test. Yesterday, the department was set to start the interviews of people who passed the agility test.

"So the process is application, certification from Personnel over to the Northern Marianas College for the placement test. And those who passed will undergo the agility test. Those who pass the agility test will go to the interview," Norita said.

Once the interview is com-

## Businesses urged to respond to census

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
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REPORTER

Local businesses were urged yesterday to help complete the 2007 economic census of the

Commonwealth.

The census forms were originally mailed in December 2007, and three follow-up increases have been sent by mail. According to the Fitial administra-

tion, just over 70 percent of the businesses have returned their census forms. Historically, the CNMI has had final response rates at or above 90 percent for the economic census.

To ensure the accuracy of the economic census, it is important that reports be received from as many businesses as possible, the administration said.

"It is absolutely essential for federal policy makers to have current information about the state of the CNMI's economy in order to make sound federal policy decisions concerning our islands," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who called on all CNMI businesses to cooperate with the U.S. Census Bureau in complet-

ing the placement test for English because they failed and we eliminated a bunch during the physical agility test," Norita said.

Once they're done with all the selection procedures, Norita said the academy for police and fire cadets may commence in the next two to three weeks from now.

With respect to the hiring of five civilian dispatchers, Norita said he got Friday the list con-

taining nine applicants.

DPS is hiring police officers and firefighters due to the sched-

uled July 14 deployment of 32 police officers and firefighters to the Middle East. Many positions at DPS are also vacant because of retirement and resignation of officers and firefighters.

## Tinian senators not likely to block Inos nomination

The Tinian Legislative Delegation is disappointed the governor did not pick a Tinian attorney for the Superior Court vacancy, but is not likely to block the appointment of Perry Inos.

Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola said he was saddened by the Fitial's administration did not give much thought to his request that a Tinian attorney be named to the bench. But he said it would be counterproductive to reject Inos' nomination simply because he is not from Tinian.

To be confirmed, Inos' appointment must be approved by majority of the nine-member Senate. Three of the members are from Tinian.

"I'm not challenging Perry's qualifications. There is no question he will be a good judge. I just thought the governor might consider appointing any of the two veteran attorneys from Tinian," said Mendiola. He was alluding to Lucy Maratita-Blanco and

Ramon Quichocho. The two other attorneys from Tinian—Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Janet H. King—passed the bar only recently.

"Even if we reject Perry, there is no guarantee the governor will choose someone from Tinian next time. It would be useless exercise to play politics with this one," Mendiola said.

If confirmed, Inos will replace retired Judge Juan T. Lizama.

Inos has been in private practice since 1997. Before that, he worked as a teacher at Rota High School, student coordinator at the Rota campus of the Northern Marianas College, assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, and associate attorney at the law office of now Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona.

Inos attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and received his law degree in 1994. (Agnes E. Donato)



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# 'Budget's cost-cutting proposal hostages lawmakers' approval'

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
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REPORTER

A legislative committee has taken issue with the inclusion of cost-cutting measures in the governor's budget plan, saying it leaves little room for the Legislature to make its own cuts.

The administration's budget proposal is premised on several cost-cutting plans, including the continued suspension of earmarks, a reduced retirement contribution rate for the government, and a biweekly government shutdown.

The Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, in an expanded report on the governor's budget, said the proposals should have been presented to the Legislature for ap-

proval before they were factored into the budget. The complex calculations limit the Legislature's ability to make changes to the governor's submission.

"The Legislature is virtually being held hostage to approval of these measures without information clear enough to justify their support," said the committee, led by Sen. Maria Frisca T. Pangelinan.

For instance, the committee said, the proposed suspension of holiday pay needs a closer look. While "not an unreasonable measure," the proposal requires a careful look at the impact on employee benefits, said

the panel of lawmakers.

The legislators were also doubtful about the effectiveness of the so-called "austerity Fridays" in cutting personnel costs. The proposal, which entails shutting government offices down every other Friday, is designed to cut personnel costs by 10 percent. "While factoring a temporary reduction in personnel costs may serve to end FY2009 without adding to the current deficit, it is not the best or [a] definitive solution to the chronic issue of excess personnel," the committee said.

The committee also raised concern that the both austerity

measures would have a "much more severe" impact on the lowest paid employees. It said that alternative measures, such as limiting the cuts to those earning over \$30,000 a year.

"The committee recommends that all possible alternatives be explored to accomplish this," it said.

The committee said its review of the governor's budget was done in anticipation of any changes the House of Representatives might make. Although Senate approval is required for any legislation, appropriation bills can only originate from the House of Representatives.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has requested a budget of \$158.4 million for fiscal year 2009, a

slight decrease from the spending limit for the past two years.

The budget calls for cost-cutting measures, including a substantially reduced retirement contribution rate, unpaid holi-

days, "austerity Fridays", and continued reprogramming of lapsed funds and fund balances from various non-General Fund accounts. It also requires an increase in several fees.



Pangelinan

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# Web site creator aims to boost island businesses

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR

The creator of a new Web site designed to bolster the Commonwealth's business community is on Saipan this week to unveil it and encourage new members.

Debbie Wissel, a fellow with the U.S. Department of the Interior, will give local business leaders a presentation today at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting on Islandbusinesslink.com, a site that will act as an online hub for entrepreneurs, investors and others to meet in cyberspace.

"It's like online dating for businesses," Wissel said in an interview Tuesday.

In addition to the presentation, Wissel will be at the Chamber's offices

today between 8am and 11am to introduce people to the site and help them sign up.

The Web site is the product of feedback given to Interior during a series of annual business conferences. Wissel said the Internet's power to connect people across vast geographic distances enables people to "bridge that business gap" and find new opportunities.

Membership on the site is free and it has already gained more than 350 members, Wissel said. The memberships are divided into three categories, including government memberships for agencies looking to post items like requests for proposals; partner memberships for business people looking for new investments; and island memberships for locals hoping to sell products or find new partners.

For now, most of the business opportunities posted on the site involve land deals, Wissel said. That could soon change, however, as more members sign up and more investors take notice.

"Now is the time to get your profile posted on the site in order to get your business or opportunity seen by the new investors that will be looking to it," Wissel said.

Wissel, a candidate for an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, has served previously as the manager for an investment research and advisory firm in New York.

## Man gets 6 mos. in jail for 'ice' trafficking on Tinian

The federal court yesterday sentenced to six months in prison a man tagged by authorities as one of the suppliers of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson imposed a sentence of six months' imprisonment on Zhang Dong Guo for each of the three charges of distribution of a controlled substance.

Munson said the terms are to be served concurrently and that the 47-year-old Guo will be given credit for the time he has already served in jail. This means that the total jail term for the three charges is six months.

Munson said that at any time following yesterday's sentencing, if Guo secures a return ticket to China and leaves the CNMI of his own volition, or if the CNMI Immigration officials were to deport him, the defendant will be deemed to have satisfied his term of imprisonment.

Upon release from prison, the defendant will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Under the supervised release, Guo will be required among other things, to

perform 200 hours of community work and prohibited from drinking alcohol.

Munson ordered the defendant to pay a \$300 special court assessment fee immediately.

The information charged Guo with three counts of distribution of a controlled substance. He and counsel Robert T. Torres signed a plea agreement with the government. Last March, the defendant pleaded guilty to all charges.

According to the plea agreement, Guo distributed 0.19 grams of "ice" on Jan. 9, 2008 and 0.22 grams and 0.19 grams of "ice" on Jan. 10, 2008. The total amount of grams distributed by Guo was .60 grams.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent stated in his report that on Jan. 9, 2008, detectives from the Department of Public Safety debriefed a confidential source about "ice" traffickers on Tinian.

The CS informed the agents on Jan. 9, 2008, that a certain Tony was distributing "ice" at the Pacific Laundry in San Jose, Tinian.

Authorities later identified Tony as defendant Guo. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

guns—the .40 calibers.

He said the 17 handguns were in Guam's armory for about a year already.

"In a meeting with them, we were able to secure the 17 handguns with magazines," Norita said.

"It's a good timing for us and blessing really because we're starting an academy [police] and I don't need to buy 9mm handguns," he said.

The commissioner said the donated handguns will be used by the new police officers.

age and animal waste.

The contaminated water may cause disease, with symptoms that may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and any associated headaches and fatigue.

In February, the affected areas were in As Lito, As Perdido, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Kiya, Koblerville, and Lower Dandan.

In March, the affected areas were Achugao, Airport, As Perdido, and Gualo Rai.

In April, the violations were found in As Perdido, Chalan Kanoa, Garapan,



### ROPE EXERCISE

Students from the Northern Marianas College's Educational Talent Search use ropes as part of an anti-discrimination and team building exercise. The event was hosted by NMPASI as part of its efforts to raise awareness about individuals with disabilities. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### KOREAN CULTURAL CONCERT

Visiting members of a Korean dance company perform a traditional Korean drum dance during the Korean Culture Festival Concert at the Liberation Festival grounds in Garapan Sunday night. The group also performed at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saturday. The Peace Music and Arts Academy sponsored the presentation in celebration of the 232nd U.S. Independence day. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## BUSINESSES

From Page 2

ing the census.

Two U.S. Census Bureau officials will be on island until Tuesday, July 8, 2008, to work with CNMI officials on plans for completing the economic census. The two officials are Lee Wentela, chief of the Economic Census Branch, and Geoffrey Hill, a survey statistician.

The Census officials are working with the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, on follow-up plans for those companies that have yet to turn in their economic census questionnaires. Those businesses can expect telephone call interviews and personal visits from the Census officials.

The economic census covers all businesses that paid employees during any period of time in 2007. The census includes all establishments

that employ at least one person. The form asks about their physical location, operational status, length of operation, use of e-commerce, employment and payroll, inventories, kind of business and type of product, and class of customer.

The last CNMI economic census was done in 2002. Federal law requires that the economic census be done every five years.

The 2007 results are scheduled to be released in March 2009.

## FUND

From Page 1

the fund's value.

America has long suffered economically because of a downturn in the housing market connected to subprime lending—home loans given low-income borrowers. In July, Aguon said, interest rates on roughly 10 percent of those loans will go up, a shift that could diminish stock values.

"The effect of that is unknown, but if half of those homeowners decide to just turn in their keys, that means a collapse in the housing market," Aguon said. "Indirectly, the entire U.S. market is going to take a hit. Our investments are generally more conservative than average—they have to be because

we're a pension fund. However, since everybody is going to take a hit across the board, whatever hit the stock market takes, we will feel it."

However, the Fund is prepared for the short term impact of the housing crunch, Aguon said, noting that much of its money is in securities and other investments that should remain safe from fluctuations in the market.

"That's the way we hedge against times like these," Aguon said. "We'll just have to ride through it."

According to the Fund's most recent financial figures, its value now totals \$449.57 million. The Retirement Fund's next meeting is slated for July 10.

## DPS

From Page 1

Aquatic and Wildlife," Norita told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said these are similar to the handguns that CNMI police officers are using right now.

The commissioner said the weapons are surplus because Guam's Department of Agriculture is upgrading its weaponry by purchasing new hand-

## CUC

From Page 1

coliform or E. coli in drinking water is a serious health concern.

Federal law requires CUC to tell the public about any drinking water violations.

According to CUC's report, fecal coliform or E. coli are generally not harmful themselves, but their presence in drinking water is serious because they are usually associated with sew-

and Sadog Tasi.

Six areas were affected in August. They were in Lower Base, Lower Navy Hill, Koblerville, Obyan, Sadog Tasi, and Upper Miha.

Six other areas were detected to have violations in October. They were in As Perdido, Chalan Kiya, Dandan Koblerville, Upper Kagman Road, and Upper Miha.

In November, As Gonno, As Lito, Lower Dandan, and Sadog Tasi had violations.

In December, the areas affected were

Agag, As Perdido, Dandan Homestead, San Vicente, and Upper Kagman Road.

The CUC Lab and Water staff collected the water samples.

As problems were detected, CUC repaired the pipeline leaks and, when needed, added extra chlorine to the reservoirs and pumping stations.

CUC operates 41 chlorinating stations on Saipan, one on Tinian, and two in Rota.

CUC says violations occur when treatment equipment fails; chlorine treatment cylinders are ordered but

are delayed in being shipped, causing periodic low chlorine treatment levels; and leaks in pipelines allowing ground contaminants to enter the pipes.

On Tinian, the violation was only detected in April.

On Rota, the violation was found only in June. But the island's public water system had a violation for "failure to monitor" for total coliform in April.

It turned out that the water samples were collected on Rota but they did not arrive at the lab within the required time limit.



# This week is CNMI Nurses' Week

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has proclaimed this week as CNMI Nurses Week in recognition of the service nurses provide to Commonwealth residents.

In a proclamation signed Sunday, Villagomez praised the estimated 250 nurses currently working in the Northern Marianas for their "commitment, dedication, passion, professionalism, and swiftness in responding to the health care needs of the people of the CNMI."

Villagomez urged young people to consider a career in the nursing profession.

"In our diverse population, nurses across the CNMI are challenged in meeting culturally sensitive health care needs each day. Despite this challenge, the nurses' contin-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI nurses gather for a photo shortly after the Eucharistic Mass Celebration at the Kristo Rai Church on Sunday, in observance of this year's CNMI Nurses' Week.

ued faithfulness and commitment to quality health care contributes greatly to improving many lives. We extend our sincere and warm gratitude to all nurses for their dedication and passion to public service," Villagomez said.

The proclamation mirrors the theme for this year's Nurses' Week, "Nurses: Diverse Roles, One Mission."

To celebrate Nurses Week, the CNMI Nursing Association has organized a continuing education program for the

local nurses. Lectures are being conducted on a wide range of health care-related topics, the nursing licensure exam,

and the health situation in the Commonwealth.

The Nursing Association will participate in the Libera-

tion Day parade on Friday. On Saturday, a Nurses' Ball will be held at Fiesta Resort and Spa. (Agnes E. Donato)

# First Narita flight lands on Saipan

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The first of many new Northwest Airlines flights from Tokyo's Narita Airport touched down on Saipan early this morning, a landmark event opening a new daily service schedule for travelers and marking the culmination of several months of negotiations between the airline, travel agents and local officials.

The new flights are expected to draw thousands of new visitors to the Commonwealth, observers say, giving the local tourism sector a needed boost. Gov. Benigno Fitial applauded the landing as "the most important single step forward for the rebirth of our tourism industry" since Northwest agreed to re-launch its daily service from Osaka last year.

Arriving passengers this morning got a warm greeting complete with leis made from shells presented to them by the tourism office.

Northwest's additional flights from Tokyo, which could bring more than 74,000 new tourists each year according to some estimates, come amid tough times for other local air services. Rising fuel costs and low sales prompted Continental Airlines to cancel its direct flights between Saipan and Manila in June, and also forced Freedom Airlines for the first time in years to hike its prices.

Air services from key tourism markets, however, appear to be seeing some growth. In addition

to the new Tokyo flights, Asiana Airlines is poised to increase service from Korea, tourism officials say.

The added Tokyo flights could prove a major economic boon to the Commonwealth, according to statistics from the Marianas Visitors Authority. Visitors from Japan spend an average of \$1,332 in the Commonwealth during each stay, the statistics note. This tourist spending, multiplied by the number of passengers the new flights will carry, means Northwest's service could inject more than \$80 million into the region this year.

"The MVA has invested steadily to market our islands in Japan as an ideal destination for Japanese tourists," said Jerry Tan, chairman of the MVA's board of directors, in a statement. "Today, this investment will be paid back many, many times over."

The daily service to Tokyo, beginning July 2, will depart each day from the local airport at 5 am each day, arriving in Japan at 7:40. Flights from Tokyo depart at 10:45 pm and arrive around 1:25 am, according to a statement from Northwest.

"We appreciate the support of the CNMI community and are pleased to be adding incremental daily services between Saipan and Tokyo," said Richard Parsons, Northwest's general manager for Guam and Saipan. "Northwest will continue to contribute to the community by bringing more travelers from our Tokyo hub."

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# Babauta is the new Rotary Club president



Rotary Club of Saipan's newly installed 2008-2009 officers and directors gather for a photo shortly after their oath taking at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant yesterday afternoon.

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ  
jackie\_delacruz89@yahoo.com  
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan announced a new set of officers yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan during the installation of officers and directors luncheon.

Vicente "Ben" Babauta, the Social Store manager at the DFS Galleria, is the new Rotary Club president. He is also president of the Northern Marianas College Foundation and a director of the Tournament of Champion. "I really have my hands full, but still it's fun" he smiles.

Babauta replaces past president Patrick Calvo.

"It has been an honor, but also a lot of challenges ahead of us. I look forward to a productive year with a lot of projects ahead of us. We will make dreams real as it is our theme this year," said Babauta in his speech. "I will need each and every one of you actively participating to make dreams real for our children here in Saipan."

This year's new officers include Michael Brazel as vice president while Christine Parke is the secretary. Century Insurance general manager Nel Matanguihan was elected treasurer.

Elly Stoilova is still the director for Club Services. The new director for Community Services is Yoichi Matsumura. Vicky Concepcion is now the director for Vocational Services. PADG David Igitol is the director for International Services while Jon Anderson holds the post as director of Foundation Services.

The new sergeant-at-arms is Irene Tantiado and president-elect for RY 2009 to 2010 is VP Kim Forrester. Double past president David Igitol is still the assistant district governor for the Pacific Basin Group Rotary Clubs, while Michael Brazel is the new group secretary.

Past president Ed Salas acted as emcee during Tuesday's event.

During the installation luncheon, the group also presented several awards to its members. President Babauta and Vice President Forrester presented the Citizen of the Year Award to past president Alex Sablan. VP Forrester received the Rotarian of the Year Award.

Some projects that the group is preparing for are the Las Vegas Night on July 19, Kagman Community park children playground in October, and the Man'Amko Luncheon in November.

Some projects that the group is preparing for are the Las Vegas Night on July 19, Kagman Community park children playground in October, and the Man'Amko Luncheon in November.

## Fitzgerald here for 5-day R&R

The USS *Fitzgerald*, a 505-foot destroyer, arrived yesterday morning with approximately 300 officers and crew, for a few days of July 4 rest and recreation. This is a return visit for the *Fitzgerald*, which was here a few months ago.

The ship will have a contingent marching in the Liberation Day parade.

Kyle Calabrese, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that Saipan was chosen as their R&R destination "at the request of the crew, who had a great time when they were last here."

"After speaking with the ship's officers and because they were last here so recently, we have decided to not host a welcome reception so that the crew can make the most of their four-day visit," said Calabrese.

The *Fitzgerald* will depart on Saturday morning.

The vessel's officers will be joining the Chamber's general membership meeting today, July 2, which will start 11:30am at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle.

Chamber members will also be hearing from Labor Director Barry Hirshbein on the latest update from the Department of Labor, including the emergency regulations that are now in place for the hiring of nonresident workers.

Debbie Wissel, the 2008 OIA Island Fellow, will provide a brief introduction to the new Island Business Link website.

As usual, meeting fees are \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. (Chamber)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### MHS Class of '88 meeting

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Saturday, July 5, 2008, 4pm, at the residence of Melvin P. and Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito.

This is to wrap up last weekend's celebration and to discuss future plans. All classmates are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

If you have any questions, call Eleanor A. Cepeda at 483-6358. (PR)

### Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

- Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 7pm
- Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm

Please adhere to the following schedules:

- Monday - Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.
- Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.

For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (PR)

# HAPPY LIBERATION DAY!



## Seat belt must be worn day & night.













# Saipan team to take part in three-day walk

By **JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ**  
jackie\_delacruz89@yahoo.com  
JUNIOR REPORTER

Team Saipan Sweet Feet will represent the CNMI in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure event, a three-day walk that supports the cause to find a cure against breast cancer. The event will be held in Seattle, Washington on Sept. 12-14, 2008.

Each member of the CNMI team will walk a total of 60 miles, at 20 miles a day for three days.

Members of the team are Pamela Brown, Roberta Guerrero, Claire Kosack, Bobbi Grizzard, Rhoda Smith, Kazuyo Tojo and Pam's sister, Corrine Loprinzi, and Team Captain Marian Aldan-Pierce. The team members will meet up with thousands of men and women in Seattle, Washington for the three-day walk.

Seafix Inc.—a leading maintenance and repair facility on Saipan and the primary industrial assistance provider to the Military Sealift Command Pre-Position Fleet stationed here in the Marianas—is one of the major sponsors of Team Saipan Sweet Feet, with a donation of \$1,000 to fund the team's trip.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists dedicated to the fight against breast cancer and finding the cure for breast cancer at every stage.

Eighty five percent of the net proceeds of this event will go to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The remaining 15 percent of the net funds will go to the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund, which aims to provide ongoing support to breast cancer initiatives.

Seafix general manager Mark

Blackburn urged others in the community to support the team. "The team would be pleased

to have any supporters for the event. So if you see any of these gals walking in preparation for

the 3-Day, show them your support, honk your horn, give them a shout," he said.



Team Saipan Sweet Feet members and supporters pose with the \$1,000 donation given by Seafix general manager Mark Blackburn.

If you want to donate to their cause or to obtain more information, visit the Susan G. Ko-

men for the Cure website at [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) or <http://08.the3day.org>.

## EARN BIG MONEY! LEARN A TRADE!

**Learn to become an electrician, plumber, carpenter, or a painter.**

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Saipan's only trade school, is now accepting applications, male or female, regardless of age.

All interested students are urged to attend the briefing meeting on July 2, Wednesday at 6:00pm at IBPC Campus across from Joeten Dandan Bldg., Dandan Saipan. Class information and instructions will be discussed in the meeting.

**Call for details and start a new life!**

**Call George Sablan at 285-7410 or Tony Pellegrino at 287-8310**

Martina & Eliezer Uchel  
P.O. Box 501726  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No. 285-4022

PRO SE

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the )  
Adoption for ) FCD AD  
ADRIAN JOHN ALEPUYO UCHEL ) CIVIL ACTION  
Minor Child ) NO. 08-0362  
By: ) **NOTICE OF**  
MARTINA ALEPUYO UCHEL ) **HEARING**  
and ELIEZER UCHEL )  
Petitioners )

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor child by Martina A. Uchel and Eliezer Uchel Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing of said Petition for Adoption will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 10th day of July, 2008 at 1:30p.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

# SAIPAN LIBERATION DAY



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# BankPacific marks 54 years of service

## Receives prestigious BauerFinancial's highest rating

BankPacific completed its 54th year of service to the region Monday and on Tuesday received notice of being awarded BauerFinancial's prestigious 5-star rating.

BauerFinancial is the na-

tion's leading independent bank rating firm and the 5-star rating is the highest given by the company.

"The award is not only a salute to the excellent performance of our team at BankPa-

cific but also a testament to the opportunities that exist in our region today," said BankPacific president Philip Flores.

"We are also pleased to announce our 54th year of banking was our best thus far and

we believe even better years are ahead for our bank and our region," said Flores.

BankPacific was founded July 7, 1954 and is the longest serving bank in the region. **(BankPacific)**

## NMI student attends scholar program in China

Saipan-born Matthew Owen DeLeon-Guerrero, 19, a freshman at Boise State University, has just finished a tour as a delegate to the International Scholar Laureate Program Delegation on Medicine in China as part of his summer studies program.

This opportunity, which took place from May 27 to June 11, 2008, was made available to DeLeon-Guerrero through his earlier participation in the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. in November 2006 while he was a senior at Saipan's Mount Carmel High School.

According to ISLP, he was singled out in recognition of his academic excellence. Inclusion in these international scholastics programs provide students opportunities in studies abroad in the fields of Anthropology & Archeology, Business, Communications & Journalism, Diplomacy & International Relations, Engineering, Medicine, Music, Nursing and Technology.

DeLeon-Guerrero was joined in this China trip by 40 other high-achieving scholars from prestigious institutions across the United States including Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Berkeley, Amherst, UCLA, and NYU, to name a few. DeLeon-Guerrero was the only student from Boise State University, and the only individual representing the CNMI in this program at this time.

While in China, his tour began in Beijing with a general survey of Chinese health care at the University Health Science Center with lectures on "Trends and Issues Overview of China's Medical System." Additionally he toured the Guang An Men Hospital and Teaching Academy for lectures on "Traditional Chinese Medicine Theory, Techniques and Practices," "Chi and the Human Body: Forces of Energy," and he took classes in "Demonstrations of Acupuncture, Moxibustion and Herbal Remedies."

Any trip to Beijing would not be complete without a demonstration of the Chinese preparation for the 2008 Olympics and their efforts in sports medicine as part of the program. Lectures provided by the China Sports and Science Association included "Chinese Treatment of Typical Athletic Injuries Versus Western Treatment" and "Rehabilitation of Motor Functions."

Not all of DeLeon-Guerrero's time was spent in lectures and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matthew Owen DeLeon-Guerrero, 19, a freshman at Boise State University.

classrooms in Beijing. He took a grand excursion to the Great Wall, and visited the Beijing Zoo, home of the iconic giant pandas. He visited the Temple of Heaven, and the 800-year-old Summer Palace. In addition, he and his fellow American students spent some time with Beijing residents at the English Corner at the People's University exchanging ideas, jokes, songs and information.

"It was an amazing experience," DeLeon-Guerrero said. "Just for fun, a couple of us started singing a Beatles' song on the English Corner and before you know it we had a huge number of Chinese students singing along with us. *Hey Jude* never sounded better."

DeLeon-Guerrero continued his tour with a trip to the ancient capital of Xi'an where he visited the Xi'an Jiaotong University Medical School. There he participated in student discussions regarding the training of doctors in China and visited the university's labs, specimen room and the outpatient departments. Lectures on "Integrating Traditional and Western Medicine in Treatment Methodologies" concluded the university visit.

Within the city of Xi'an DeLeon-Guerrero visited a traditional Chinese medicine

herb market and participated in a basketball game with Chinese students. Later, his itinerary included a visit to the infamous Tiananmen Square with its monument to Mao, the Forbidden City and the "Big Wild Goose Pagoda" which was constructed in 589 A.D. DeLeon-Guerrero continued his exploration of a rural village and hospital and visited the Great Mosque in the center of Xi'an's Muslim Quarter.

Later in old Xi'an, DeLeon-Guerrero visited the "Guardians of the Imperial Tomb," the amazing 8,000-man Terra Cotta Army of the Qin Dynasty. While viewing the site, DeLeon-Guerrero had the opportunity to meet the Chinese farmer who was responsible for the tomb's discovery in 1974. Through an interpreter, DeLeon-Guerrero found out that the farmer accidentally uncovered the tomb 34 years ago while digging a water well. DeLeon-Guerrero said it was a fascinating experience in cultural exchange that left him and the farmer trading autographs and photos.

DeLeon-Guerrero's next destination was Wuhan and a leading TCM Teaching Hospital in Hubei Province. There he attended lectures in "The Search

for Psychological Well-Being: Wuhan Central Mental Health Hospital." Later he and other students had an opportunity to travel down the Yangtze River. While in Wuhan, DeLeon-Guerrero visited Zhashan Village where he visited a family practice medical clinic and an elementary school. As a cultural side trip, he visited the Hubei Provincial Museum and saw 1,000-year-old musical instruments and an ancient chime bell performance.

From Wuhan, DeLeon-Guerrero traveled to Guilin, the "City of Lakes and Mountains," where he took a boat excursion on the Li River and experienced the visual magic of limestone karsts and rolling landscapes. Later he and a few classmates explored Yangshou's caves and did a bit of rock climbing. A highlight of the trip was during one early morning he took a hot air balloon to the Longsheng Longji "The Dragon's Backbone" Rice Terraces and explored the stunning 2,625 foot high hills and mazes.

According to DeLeon-Guerrero, that was one absolutely amazing ride. "I wish I had taken more pictures while we were in the air, but it was all so breathtaking, I clearly forgot I even had a camera." Once on the ground again, he visited the ethnic Zhuang villagers and observed their customs and craftsmanship. Part of the medical training during this portion of the trip was a Tai Chi workshop and traditional Chinese medicine foot massage.

The last part of DeLeon-Guerrero's trip saw him on a guided exploration through Ludi Yan "Reed Flute Cave."

DeLeon-Guerrero is the youngest son of Edward C. and Eve O. DeLeon-Guerrero of Koblerville, Saipan. Among his other accomplishments, DeLeon-Guerrero was Speaker of the CNMI Youth Congress for school year 2006-07 and was awarded the Governor's Leadership Award 2006-2007 in his senior year at Mt. Carmel School for his outstanding achievements in leadership. DeLeon-Guerrero was also the Mt. Carmel student body president for the school year 2006-07. Theatre goers will remember him as Romeo in Mt. Carmel's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of *Romeo and Juliet*. His older brother Michael and older sister Mary Louise also currently attend Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. **(PR)**

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 02, 1999

### Continental mulls flight to S. Korea

Encouraged by the improvement in the Korean market and the easing of economic slowdown in South Korea, Continental Micronesia may begin charter service to that Asian country by the end of the year, according to company president Bill Meehan. "We're back there, analyzing the market. We potentially will start some charter service. We're analyzing that," he said in a television interview. Continental will use the more efficient 737-800 type of aircraft to compete with Korean Air and Asiana Airlines.

### 15-cent viewers' tax stirs Saipan lawmakers

Saipan legislators yesterday dilly-dallied on a proposal to repeal a nearly one-year law imposing a 15-cent tax on every rental of video tape and each movie ticket because of opposing views over whether the fee is a burden to consumers. An initial voting on House Local Bill 11-15 offered by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider resulted to 8-7 against it, but ended in a tie after Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes changed his vote twice, prompting the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to reconsider the action and continue its debate on the issue.

### Street naming project sparks racial debate

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation failed yesterday to resolve differences on the long-stalled street naming project of the Office of the Mayor as members fought over whether Chamorro or Carolinian names will be used for the plan. This was the same argument when the lawmaking body tackled the proposal last December which ended only after Saipan legislators agreed to provide a 90-day review to consider a recommendation from the Carolinian community.

July 02, 2001

### Businesses cry for help

The Garapan Revitalization Project is not likely to take off in the near future, unless the government extends additional effort to help local businessmen survive the turtle-paced rally of the local economy. Slow business turnout have forced hundreds of small businesses to close down, while a big number of those who are still in operation are already toying with the idea of pulling down the shutter—for good.

### Solar eclipse in 2002 as tourist draw?

On the morning of June 11, 2002, an interesting natural phenomenon will be visible from the Northern Marianas. Next year's annular solar eclipse is a rare type that will only be witnessed on Saipan and Tinian in the Pacific and in Mexico in Central America, according to Michael Gill, a British information technology expert who is also an amateur astronomer specializing in solar eclipses.

### PSS receives fed funds for school renovations

The Public School System has been granted \$400,000 in federal renovation funds meant to assist schools in making emergency repairs and renovations on school facilities. PSS has announced that the financial assistance is open to all public schools on a competitive basis.

July 02, 2002

### Faster entry processing urged

The Korean Airlines voiced out the sentiments aired by its passengers over the inconvenience caused by the insufficient number of officers manning the immigration booths at the Saipan International Airport. This prompted Korean Air management to ask the Department of Labor and Immigration to deploy additional immigration officers at the Saipan airport to fast-track the processing of the passengers' entry to the island.

### PCB excavation in cemetery complete

The contractor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it has completed the excavation of PCB-laced soil from the Tanapag cemetery. The total volume of treated soil reached about 16,000 tons. The volume of contaminated soil extracted from the cemetery was approximately eight cubic yards, revealed a staff of the Environmental Chemical Corporation who requested anonymity.



# NMI sends delegation to Guam dance tilt

The Northern Mariana Islands sent a small delegation to the 6th Annual Dinana Minagof Chamorro Dance Competition and Festival in Guam last week, in preparation for the group's participation in the Festival of the Pacific that will take place later this month in American Samoa.

The competition was held June 28 and 29 at the Sister Roberta Center at the Mercy Heights auditorium in Tamuning.

The 10th Festival of Pacific Arts itself is being held in American Samoa from July 20 to Aug. 2, 2008, and is expected to attract over 2,000 participants and thousands of visitors.

Here are some pictures from last weekend's event:



EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA  
A male contestant performs a dance routine during the Cultural Dance Competition in Tamuning, Guam.



A female contestant answers a question.  
EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA



EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA  
The Cultural Dance Competition was held in Guam at the Sister Roberta auditorium in Tamuning on Saturday and Sunday and the CNMI was well represented and will be representing the island at next month's FESTPAC. The judges in the Guam competition included, from left, Frances Sablan of the CNMI, Benjie Santiago and Ann Marie Arceo.



A pair of CNMI musicians belted out tunes to the delight of the many people in attendance.



A group of young men perform a dance routine during the weekend's Cultural Dance Competition.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



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| Outbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETD Jakarta | ETD Bangkok | ETD Kelang | ETD Fuzhou | ETD Melbourne | ETD Singapore | ETD Hochiminh | ETD Busan | ETD Kobe | ETD Shanghai | ETD Auckland | ETD Manila | ETD Hongkong | ETD Kaoshiung |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| MELL SENOKO        | 006E       | 6/21 SAT    | 6/19 THU    | 6/9 MON    | 6/26 THU   | 6/10 TUE      | 6/14 SAT      | 6/27 FRI      | 6/23 MON  | 6/22 SUN | 6/17 TUE     | 6/8 SUN      | 6/23 MON   | 6/27 FRI     | 6/28 SAT      |
| MELL SINGAPORE     | 011E       | 6/28 SAT    | 6/26 THU    | 6/16 MON   | 7/3 THU    | 6/17 TUE      | 6/21 SAT      | 7/4 FRI       | 6/30 MON  | 6/29 SUN | 6/24 TUE     | 6/15 SUN     | 6/30 MON   | 7/4 FRI      | 7/5 SAT       |
| STADT HAMBURG      | 019E       | 7/5 SAT     | 7/3 THU     | 6/23 MON   | 7/10 THU   | 6/24TUE       | 6/28 SAT      | 7/11 FRI      | 7/7 MON   | 7/6 SUN  | 7/1 TUE      | 6/22 SUN     | 7/7 MON    | 7/11 FRI     | 7/12 SAT      |
| MELL SENOKO        | 007E       | 7/12 SAT    | 7/10 THU    | 6/30 MON   | 7/17 THU   | 7/1 TUE       | 7/5 SAT       | 7/18 FRI      | 7/14 MON  | 7/13 SUN | 7/8 TUE      | 6/29 SUN     | 7/14 MON   | 7/18 FRI     | 7/19 SAT      |
| MELL SINGAPORE     | 012E       | 7/19 SAT    | 7/17 THU    | 7/7 MON    | 7/24 THU   | 7/8 TUE       | 7/12 SAT      | 7/25 FRI      | 7/21 MON  | 7/20 SUN | 7/15 TUE     | 7/6 SUN      | 7/21 MON   | 7/25 FRI     | 7/19 SAT      |
| STADT HAMBURG      | 020E       | 7/26 SAT    | 7/24 THU    | 7/24 THU   | 7/31 THU   | 7/15 TUE      | 7/19 SAT      | 8/1 FRI       | 7/28 MON  | 7/27 SUN | 7/22 TUE     | 7/13 SUN     | 7/28 MON   | 8/1 FRI      | 8/2 SAT       |

| Inbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETA Guam | ETA Saipn | ETA Yap  | ETA Koror | ETA GenSan | ETA Davao | ETA Cebu | ETA Hongkong | ETA Kaoshiung | ETA Busan | ETA Kobe | ETA Manila | ETA Singapore |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|---------------|
| MELL SENOKO       | 006E       | 7/4 FRI  | 7/5 SAT   | 7/5 SAT  | 7/8 TUE   | 7/9 WED    | 7/11 FRI  | 7/12 SAT | 7/15 TUE     | 7/18 FRI      | 7/19 SAT  | 7/24 THU | 7/22 TUE   | 7/20 SUN      |
| MELL SINGAPORE    | 011E       | 7/11 FRI | 7/12 SAT  | 7/12 SAT | SKIP      | 7/16 WED   | 7/18 FRI  | 7/19 SAT | 7/22 TUE     | 7/25 FRI      | 7/26 SAT  | 7/31 THU | 7/29 TUE   | 7/27 SUN      |
| STADT HAMBURG     | 019E       | 7/18 FRI | 7/19 SAT  | 7/19 SAT | 7/22 TUE  | 7/23 WED   | 7/25 FRI  | 7/26 SAT | 7/26 SAT     | 8/1 FRI       | 8/2 SAT   | 8/7 THU  | 8/5 TUE    | 8/3 SUN       |
| MELL SENOKO       | 007E       | 7/25 FRI | 7/26 SAT  | 7/26 SAT | SKIP      | 7/30 WED   | 8/1 FRI   | 8/2 SAT  | 8/5 TUE      | 8/8 FRI       | 8/9 SAT   | 8/14 THU | 8/12 TUE   | 8/10 SUN      |
| MELL SINGAPORE    | 012E       | 8/1 FRI  | 8/2 SAT   | 8/2 SAT  | 8/5 TUE   | 8/6 WED    | 8/8 FRI   | 8/9 SAT  | 8/12 TUE     | 8/15 FRI      | 8/16 SAT  | 8/21 THU | 8/19 TUE   | 8/17 SUN      |
| STADT HAMBURG     | 020E       | 8/8 FRI  | 8/9 SAT   | 8/9 SAT  | SKIP      | 8/13 WED   | 8/15 FRI  | 8/16 SAT | 8/19 TUE     | 8/22 FRI      | 8/23 SAT  | 8/28 THU | 8/26 TUE   | 8/24 SUN      |

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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### EDITORIAL

## Deadly deception

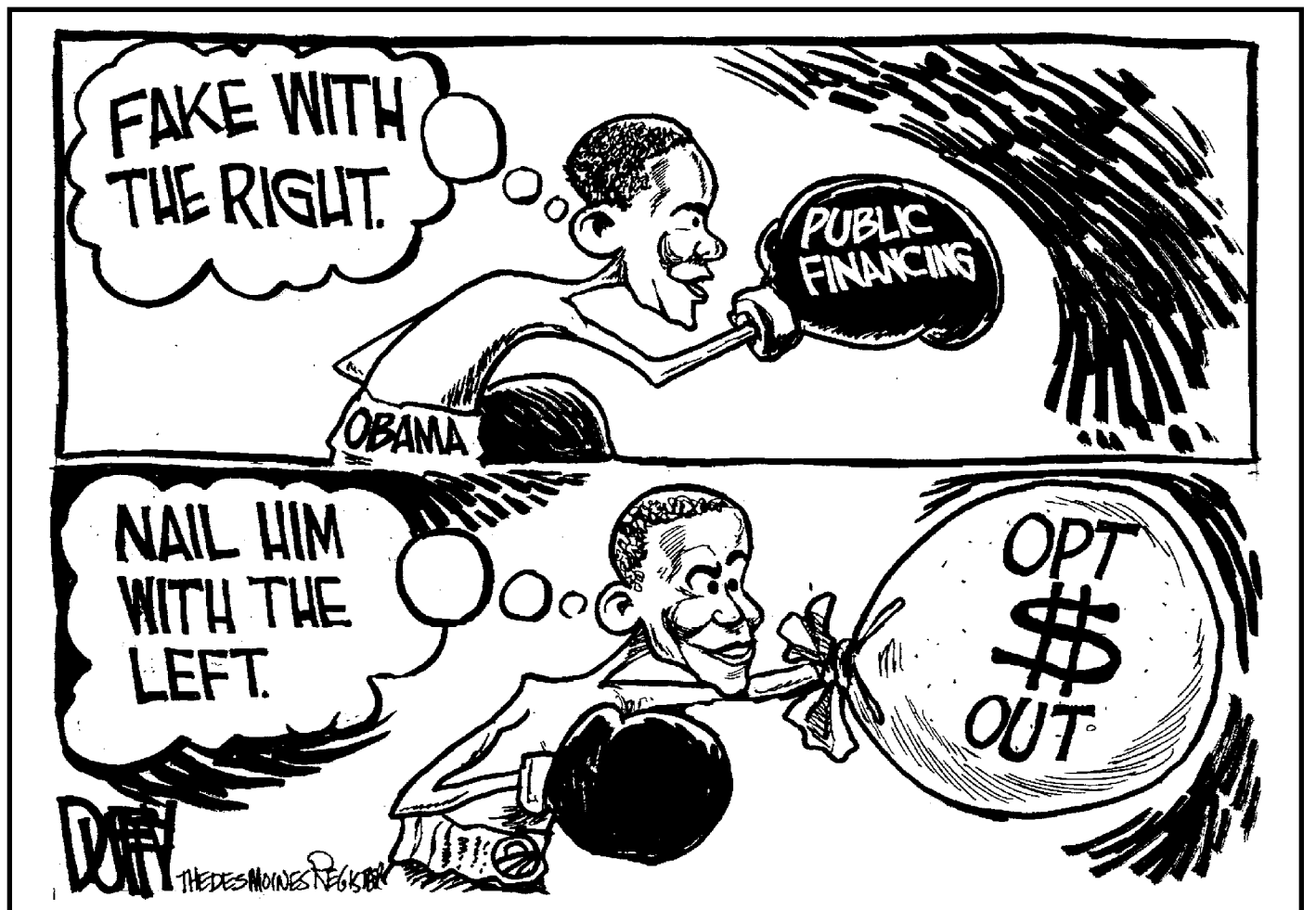
A team of international researchers bought anti-malaria drugs from pharmacies in six cities in Africa's malaria belt, tested the products and despaired. More than a third of the alleged medicines flunked the field tests for clinical efficacy. And 48 percent of the drugs manufactured in Africa -- the best hope for affordable medicines for the poor -- failed the quality tests. The researchers couldn't determine whether the drugs were counterfeit, or old medicines that had been repackaged with new expiration dates, or legitimate pharmaceuticals that had lost some or all of their effectiveness through age or improper storage. What is now clear, however, is that large numbers of African malaria patients are being victimized by the widespread distribution of bogus or substandard medications. Equally horrifying, the sale of these inappropriate or ineffective drugs is virtually guaranteed to increase the prevalence of drug-resistant malaria, which in turn will make it even harder for Africa to eliminate the scourge.

The research, published by the American Enterprise Institute, should set off alarms around the world. In 1999, at least 30 people died in Cambodia as a result of taking counterfeit drugs to treat malaria, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A recent follow-up survey in Asia found that 32 percent of malaria drugs there failed quality tests. Yet the World Health Organization reports that half of its member countries have weak regulations or none at all to prevent pharmaceutical counterfeiting. India and China have been found to be producers of counterfeit drugs, some of which make their way to Europe and the United States. The Internet has proved a boon for purveyors of fake medicines, and some counterfeits have also found their way into pharmacies here.

But the percentage of duds among African anti-malarials spotlights the need for new levels of scrutiny, particularly as the United States gears up to spend an additional \$5 billion through 2013 to combat malaria. Especially worrisome was the large number of single-drug malaria cures the researchers found for sale. Last year, the WHO got its members to agree not to produce or sell such "monotherapy" drugs because of the likelihood that they will both fail to cure the patient and favor the emergence of drug-resistant disease. Patients are supposed to be getting a more effective combination of two different drugs.

The lesson is that technologies (even miracle drugs) are only as effective as the social infrastructure needed to deliver them. We must ensure that the medicines being distributed in U.S.-funded malaria clinics are subjected to better quality controls than those in local African pharmacies. Beyond that, sustainable progress against disease will require building up local public health systems that will have to simultaneously work on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria—and counterfeit drugs.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



## The art of waste management

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

Just where is this train heading?  
Am I going for the ride?  
Two questions you should ask each day  
and here's how to decide

First ask, "What number train is this?"  
"Have I taken it before?"  
If chances are the route's the same  
don't board until you're sure

Next, find a high perspective  
and then look way down the track  
If it's not a place you wish to go,  
no need for you to pack

No need for pointless travel  
or to kiss your dreams farewell  
Just spend your time on trains  
that go to where you wish to dwell

The train called opportunity  
departs with all due haste  
Last call, non-stop, now all aboard!  
no time for you to waste!!

No, it's not a course in garbage disposal, or environmental stewardship.

The Art of Waste Management involves being able to foresee the likely outcome of certain actions, conversations, interactions, disputes, etc., and simply avoid having them intrude on the smooth flow of your life or business.

Once you start to see the patterns in how certain situations typically unfold, then by asking yourself just a few questions prior to any engaging in any interaction or activity, you can predict where that "train" is heading, and eliminate unnecessary wastes of your time, energy, thoughts, words and actions, and instead focus on the routes that get you where you want to go.

That's one reason I rarely get into political or religious discussions (read: arguments) with others. Only certain types of people can and should get involved in those types of discussions. If the

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).



participants of such a discussion can all "agree to disagree", and if they simply want the mental stimulation of a challenging exchange of ideas, that's one thing. If, on the other hand, they're not able to see the inevitable outcome of being too attached to their individual viewpoints, and are too emotionally attached, then escalating tension, hurt feelings and deterioration of good will, friendships and relationships is sure to follow.

In such a situation, I always ask, "How likely is it that this conversation I'm about to have will result in this person completely abandoning their position, adopting another, and relinquishing a belief system to which their very identity and sense of self is most likely attached? How likely is this action to result in a new outcome if it's resulted in the same outcome time and time again? In other words, is this a train I've been on before toward a destination I already know? If so, maybe I need to exercise some waste management techniques here.

The same approach can save you time and energy in business and your personal affairs. There are certain people, processes, etc. that always seem to produce the same outcomes. It's been said that the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over, but expecting different results." Are you going down the same track day after day, year after year with the same people, situations and circumstances and expecting different results? That, my friend, in addition to being poor "waste management", is quite possibly insane!

*Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!*

*Note: There's a new blog in town! Check out [www.blackson-saipan.com](http://www.blackson-saipan.com)*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# ‘American’ label transcends differences

By **FRANK HARRIS III**  
SPECIAL TO THE HARTFORD COURANT

On the Fourth of July, we as Americans will celebrate the 232nd anniversary of our country's independence. On the fourth of November, we will elect our 44th president.

I said we: This is our country. This is my country.

I am an American: I did not say black American. I did not say African American.

I said American.

This does not dismiss the descriptive reality of who I am, or disregard how others see me, or disavow how I see myself. I also refer to myself as a black American or African-American. Others refer to me by these same descriptions -- sometimes by names unkind. Indeed, my Americanism -- meaning my being recognized and accepted as an American -- is sometimes challenged.

Having traveled abroad to a few countries in Europe and Africa, it is quickly evident that when others see me outside of America, they see an American. It is ironic that my Americanism is more distinguishable outside the country than in. It is also disconcerting that as black Americans, we are constantly questioned as to our patriotism, pride and love of country.

Do we love our country? Are we proud of our country? Are we patriotic?

These are questions Michelle Obama recently addressed on the TV

show "The View" after saying in February that for the first time in her life, she felt proud of her country. It is a question her husband and presumptive Democratic Party nominee Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois faced when he was seen without an American flag on his lapel.

Patriotism, pride and love of country race up the flagpole every Fourth of July and every presidential election year, and on numerous occasions in between.

For the first time, Michelle Obama felt proud of her country? I certainly understood what she meant and felt.

Her comment was a recognition of America's less than stellar past with regard to its treatment of blacks, and a salute to the progress that white and other nonblack Americans have made in living up to the principles of a Democratic nation.

So to challenge what is really a comment on the progress of America and turn it into a question of her patriotism seems disingenuous.

I think the asking of the question indicates a degree of ignorance, a measure of insensitivity. The truth is when a group has been historically and routinely denied by its government and majority citizens many of the rights that others have, it is only natural that that group's love and pride in its country would not be the same as those who reap the full benefits of their Americanism. As such, I feel the need to flip this outrageous question about patriotism to the following statement: Ask not whether blacks have been patriotic to America; ask whether America has been patriotic to blacks.

Perhaps it is presumptuous, but I will say it anyway: No one

should call into question the patriotism of black Americans or our love for this country or our loyalty to it. We have historically given more love and loyalty to America than America has given to us.

No one should ask black Americans to explain our love for this country or the degree of our love for this country. That we love it to whatever degree should be enough. To that degree, this is my country. This is our country. I am an American. We are Americans.

Before Barack Obama's presumptive nomination, there was one other time I felt a particularly strong Americanism inside me. That time was 9/11 and the days that followed. It was not a matter of feeling love or pride in being American. It was a matter of being American. I felt this way because those who struck America that day did not distinguish between race, religion, ethnicity, gender or anything but the fact that we were Americans. My feeling of being American was forged through a shared horrific, tragic experience. It was feeling American from a negative experience.

The pride that Michelle Obama and other black Americans feel about their country as a result of Barack Obama's candidacy for president of the United States of America is one forged through a positive experience. It was a nod to an America that most blacks thought we would not ever see -- nonblack Americans voting for someone black to possibly be the president of the most powerful nation on Earth.

*Harris is chairman of the journalism department at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Conn.*

## Letters to the Editor

# The mess at CUC

*Editor's Note: The following letter is being published as a series due to its length.*

### Second of a five-part series

The Aggreko contract probably violates the CNMI procurement regulations in two aspects. First, selection seems to be done for contract offers done in 2006 without according other contractors the same opportunity. More importantly, CUC signed a contract (page 14 and 15) which CUC certified that (1) the contract is a budgeted line item, and (2) sufficient funds were available for the execution of this contract, when we been hearing from the CUC and the Governor that CUC don't have any funding even to buy fuel. This raises serious questions on how CUC and the Executive Branch are treating our procurement laws.

I have reviewed the profit and loss statement of the CUC, which shows that CUC claims it lost \$16.1 million in 2005, \$19.4 million in 2006, \$1.09 million in 2007, and in the last six months CUC lost \$6.9 million. So, in the last three and the half years, CUC would have lost around \$43 million. The P&L statement illustrates a depreciation charge of around \$29.4 million. So assuming CUC collected all revenues, CUC still has an accumulated cash deficit of about \$14 million just in the last three and half years, which most likely supported by not paying vendors and other short-term liabilities. The big question, therefore, is, when CUC certified it has sufficient funds for the Aggreko contract, where will be the money be coming from?

Now, this contract was supposedly signed on June 19, and disclosed to the Legislature on June 23. Two days after the disclosure of the contract, or less than one working week from the execution of the contract, rumors are circulating that the CUC has sent to Aggreko a change order for the capacity to be increased from 10MW to

15MW, and for the rental period to be extended to December 2010. Now, if this is indeed true, someone has lots of explaining to do.

In the last few days, the media has reported that the government is proposing the use of MPLT funds to be used as a loan to assist CUC in funding the Aggreko contract. So obviously, CUC does not have the internal resources, as Speaker Arnold Palacios and other legislators were led to believe. If this is a straightforward request for funds, why was the contract executed first before funding was identified? Whoever certified the availability of funds and those who executed the contract is either unwittingly or deliberately executing another illegal contract. I hope Aggreko reads this letter. If they still decide to send the engines, well, there will be no financial recourse against the CNMI for trying to enforce an illegal contract.

The media has reported Telesource claiming that they can provide the necessary temporary power to CUC for half the cost. If CUC and the Executive Branch claim that CUC is severely cash-constrained, how is it that such cost-savings are not being considered? Now, note, for the 10MW contract, CUC will have to pay Aggreko, the sum of \$4.02 million, or for the change order, it will be a total contract sum of \$9.07 million. Let's give Telesource the benefit of the doubt, and the savings to the CNMI will be \$2.01 million for the original contract, or \$4.5 million for the expanded Aggreko contract. How can CUC or the Administration afford to ignore such cost savings?

But I suppose, why should anyone be surprised? Let me tell the public something. In December 2007, I met the Secretary of Finance, the Lieutenant Governor and the former CUC Director to discuss the idea of rehabilitating Power Plant II. Power Plant II is located just 15 meters behind Power Plant I. It comprises six EMD machines running at medium speed, and if rehabilitated could provide 15MW backup power. I know the condition of the plant, as I had offered to rehabilitate it also during the Babauta Administration and but did not receive the support to complete it.

As requested by the Secretary of Finance, I submitted a proposal in mid-December 2007 to CUC in which I offered financing for the rehabilitation and completion of works within 45 days. There was no risk to the CNMI, as there were no parts to purchase by CUC, no

employees to hire, no mobilization to pay, and the risks were on me. I had financing available from overseas investors who are prepared to risk their money to help CUC. Some of the retired and qualified local mechanics who has unquestionable background in power plant operations would be involved. At that time, no one disclosed to me that CUC had already entered into a contract with CISCO to repair Power Plant II. Maybe, the meeting was just a free consultation to learn about managing utilities, and the proposal they asked me to submit was just an excuse.

Well of course, until today, I have no answer regarding my proposal. CUC it seems prefer to pay mobilization fees, pay the 0.05 cents per kWh for an old fleet of high-speed engines that consume more fuel, and ignore a proposal where the government did not have to spend any money up-front.

### To be continued.

**Ramon S. Guerrero**

*As Perdido, Saipan*

# Where is the money?

To: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Attn: Mr. Antonio Muna

The mistake CUC made was very costly, not to mention a waste of taxpayers' time and money hiring an unprofessional sole-sourced contractor. You failed to mention to the senators that DCM Group agreed, acknowledged, and represented that it has readily available the necessary expertise, training, knowledge, parts, materials, and equipment, manpower, and capacity to perform for the fee of \$5,006,350.70

You also failed to mention that they do not have the expertise or the manpower, otherwise DCM Group wouldn't have recruited Felipe Atalig's former power plant mechanics (which DCM has denied but records at the Labor Department show differently).

You also failed to mention that there are penalty clauses in the signed DCM sole-sourced contract; you stated it did not.

You also failed to mention that the 90 days timeframe had lapsed and rehabilitation and repair of all engines on contract is a complete failure.

CUC has not learned from its mistakes; rather it is compiling and adding burden on the consumers.

Mr. Muna, privatization is an option but deliberately and intentionally running our public utilities to the ground by way of oppressing the already suffering consumers is wrong and someone has to be held accountable and responsible.

Engine No. 7 will not be operational within 30-45 days since the default contract expires on July 10, 2008. As you stated, three other engines will eventually go online. We ask: If the total MW to be produced is above 10 MW, then you have no need for a \$6 million rent-a-container temporary power generation.

CISCO needs to be held responsible and accountable for the non-performance contract signed by the Lt. Governor on March 14, 2006. Where is the \$885,000 rehabilitation contract for Power Plant II? Where is the money?

**Gregorio Cruz Jr.**

*President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.*

# Planned lawsuit by the Administration

Various opinions have been asserted against suing the federal government on the recently approved labor and immigration laws.

Uppermost in the shallow rationalizations given is the need to guard ruining the working relationship between the two governments.

There's no disputing the plenary powers of the U.S. Congress to enact any piece of legislation. But if the two provisions of law would render 126 local labor and immigration employees basically jobless, where does the good working relationship begin? Are we supposed to swallow this destructive omission and watch our people nailed on their cross?

The new laws will strangle sustainable economic growth and displace our friends from near and far in five years' time. Has the assertion to guard a good working relationship been redefined to mean acquiescing economic annihilation and devastation? Where has your sense of purpose and integrity gone?

If I may remind my friends: The Covenant agreement provides for

collective leadership to ensure that through this agreement there's provided a "higher standard of living" for the indigenous people of these isles. Where did we miss the boat? Hello, anybody home?

The new impositions have satisfied the ego of our detractors but failed long and wide to protect a deteriorating economy that continues to roller coaster Deep South.

Finally, I am a nationalist by sentiment. Therefore, the sentiment inherent in the planned lawsuit against the federal government truly represents my views in granting indigenous posterity their rights to strengthening our democratic institutions over the long term. This is their right and must be fully safeguarded by those who think of their leadership role worthy of the trust and confidence granted them from their people.

**Candy B. Taman**






*Former member, House of Representatives  
via e-mail*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|                        |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.  | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.   | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  |
| ▲88° ▼79°   | ▲89° ▼78°   | ▲89° ▼78°   | ▲89° ▼78   | ▲89° ▼78°   |

### Micronesia

|               |               |         |
|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Cloudy | ▲85 ▼77 |
| Palau         | Thunderstorms | ▲85 ▼78 |
| Yap           | Thunderstorms | ▲86 ▼77 |
| Chuuk         | Thunderstorms | ▲87 ▼78 |
| Pohnpei       | Thunderstorms | ▲86 ▼71 |
| Kosrae        | Cloudy        | ▲87 ▼77 |
| Majuro        | Showers       | ▲84 ▼75 |

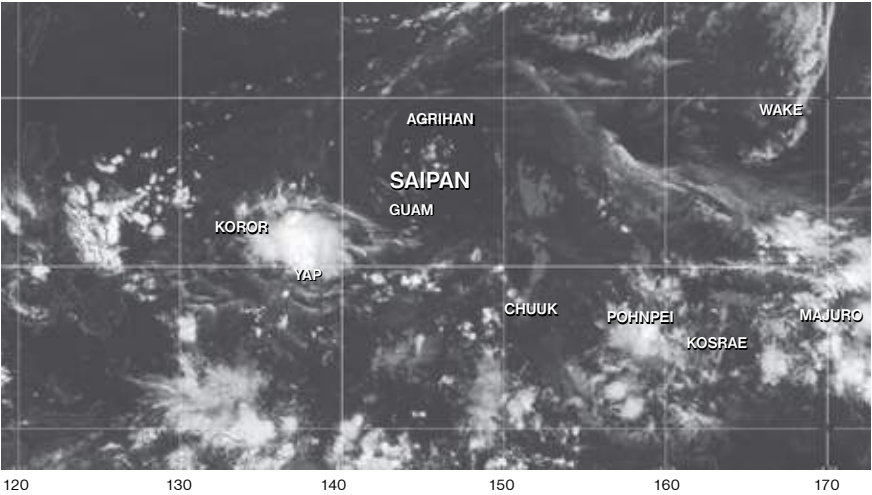
### Around The Globe

|                |                |         |
|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Auckland       | Showers        | ▲60 ▼53 |
| Beijing        | Partly Sunny   | ▲87 ▼75 |
| Hong Kong      | Thunderstorms  | ▲84 ▼80 |
| Honolulu       | Showers        | ▲82 ▼75 |
| London         | Showers        | ▲73 ▼58 |
| Los Angeles    | Mostly Sunny   | ▲82 ▼64 |
| Manila         | Thunderstorms  | ▲92 ▼78 |
| Melbourne      | Windy          | ▲61 ▼46 |
| Miami          | Thundershowers | ▲89 ▼78 |
| New York       | Mostly Sunny   | ▲85 ▼70 |
| Osaka          | Rain           | ▲76 ▼73 |
| Paris          | Showers        | ▲76 ▼57 |
| Pusan          | Rain           | ▲80 ▼68 |
| Rome           | Mostly Sunny   | ▲88 ▼64 |
| Salem          | Cloudy         | ▲85 ▼59 |
| San Francisco  | Cloudy         | ▲70 ▼58 |
| Seoul          | Rain           | ▲79 ▼68 |
| Tokyo          | Showers        | ▲75 ▼65 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny   | ▲89 ▼69 |

### Tides

| Saipan Harbor |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| 12:23AM Today | Low Tide:  | 1.4 Feet |
| 5:17AM Today  | High Tide: | 2.1 Feet |
| 1:04PM Today  | Low Tide:  | 0.8 Feet |
| 8:28PM Today  | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwest winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima and northeastward within 100 miles of a line from 24N153E to 27N161E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 4N130E through a weak circulation centered south of Koror near 5N137E to 4N149E then turns northeastward to end at 15N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis south of Koror or south of a line from 6N130E to 6N140E and south of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 146E to 153E. A low-level trough reaches northward from the circulation near Koror to 18N135E. Convergence associated with the trough is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Guam within 100 miles of a line from 13N136E to 13N141E to 8N144E. A trade-wind disturbance stretches northward from 4N168E to 13N170E. Trade convergence west of the disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and Kwajalein but over Kosrae within 170 miles of a line from 3N159E to 7N170E. Similar conditions are also occurring east of the trough or east of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 3N177E to 11N172E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

|          |        |         |
|----------|--------|---------|
| Today    | 5:51AM | 6:51 PM |
| Thursday | 5:51AM | 6:51 PM |
| Friday   | 5:51AM | 6:52 PM |
| Saturday | 5:52AM | 6:52 PM |
| Sunday   | 5:52AM | 6:52 PM |

### Moonrise/Moonset

|          |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Today    | 4:27AM | 6:06PM |
| Thursday | 5:34AM | 7:09PM |
| Friday   | 6:42AM | 8:04PM |
| Saturday | 7:46AM | 8:53PM |
| Sunday   | 8:46AM | 9:37PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

| DEPARTURES  | ARRIVALS   |
|---|--|
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b><br>CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7   | <b>Rota-Saipan</b><br>CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6  |
| <b>Saipan-Guam</b><br>CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily<br>CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6<br>CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota<br>CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily<br>CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily<br>CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily<br>CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily | <b>Guam-Saipan</b><br>CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily<br>CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily<br>CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota<br>CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7<br>CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily<br>CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily<br>CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily |
| <b>Saipan-Narita</b><br>NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya<br><br>NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily   | <b>Narita-Saipan</b><br>NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily<br>NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily via Nagoya   |
| <b>Saipan-Osaka</b><br>NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily   | <b>Osaka-Saipan</b><br>NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily   |
| <b>Saipan-Nagoya</b><br>NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily   | <b>Nagoya-Saipan</b><br>NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily   |
| <b>Saipan-Manila</b><br>CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6<br>CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3  | <b>Manila-Saipan</b><br>CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6<br>CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3  |
| <b>Saipan-Seoul</b><br>OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1<br>OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7<br>OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7   | <b>Seoul-Saipan</b><br>OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7<br>OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7<br>OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6  |
| <b>Saipan-Busan</b><br>OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7   | <b>Busan-Saipan</b><br>OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7  |
| <b>Guam-Manila</b><br>CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror<br><br>CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6<br>CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7<br>CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror<br>CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily<br>PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7                            | <b>Manila-Guam</b><br>CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7<br>CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6<br>CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap<br>CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror<br>CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily<br>PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7                     |
| <b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b><br>CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6   | <b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b><br>CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5  |
| <b>Guam-Hongkong</b><br>CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5  | <b>Hongkong-Guam</b><br>CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5  |
| <b>Guam-Rota</b><br>CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6   | <b>Rota-Guam</b><br>CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7   |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline                        | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline  | ETD     | ETA     | Frequency |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 113  | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily     |
| FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 115  | 1:00pm  | 1:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 117  | 2:30pm  | 2:40pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 119  | 4:00pm  | 4:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 121  | 4:40pm  | 4:50pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 123 *  | 5:40pm  | 5:50pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 125 *  | 6:00pm  | 6:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily   |     |     |           | <b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b> |         |         |           |
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 102  | 7:05am  | 7:15am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 104  | 7:50am  | 8:00am  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 106**  | 8:20am  | 8:30am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 108**  | 9:00am  | 9:10am  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 110  | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily     |
| FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 112  | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 114  | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily     |
| FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 116  | 1:30pm  | 1:40pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Tinian</b>           |     |     |           | FRE 118  | 2:50pm  | 3:00pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 120**  | 4:20pm  | 4:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 122**  | 5:00pm  | 5:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 124  | 6:05pm  | 6:15pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 126  | 6:20pm  | 6:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily   |     |     |           |  |         |         |           |
| FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily |     |     |           |  |         |         |           |



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Oil prices end down after topping \$143 a barrel

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The price of crude oil hit yet another record on the last day of a tumultuous first half, spurring past \$143 a barrel before ending lower on demand fears and a resilient dollar. Crude has shot up nearly 50 percent since the start of the year, in large part on the dollar's troubles, and analysts expect that trend to remain intact as the second half of 2008 begins.

A government report lowering oil and gasoline demand estimates and a dollar hanging tough nullified investor concerns over supply, a fragile global economy and continued tensions in the Middle East.

"What this shows is that demand destruction in the U.S. is a lot larger than previously thought," said Phil Flynn, an energy analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago. "There are more signs that demand is deteriorating."

Light, sweet crude for August delivery lost 21 cents to settle at \$140.00 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In early electronic trading, the contract hit a record \$143.67.

The Energy Information Administration reported that oil usage in April was lower than previously estimated, falling to 4.2 percent to 19.768 million barrels

per day from 20.631 million. That was 3.9 percent lower than in April 2007 and the lowest level for the month in six years.

The price of oil, which began 2008 at \$96 a barrel, has risen in part on expectations of higher demand in China and other developing nations. But its almost relentless advance has also

forced consumers and businesses to cut back the amount of gas and oil they use; it is also posing a threat to U.S. economic growth that could further slice into demand.

A harder dollar also sent oil prices lower on Monday. Often, oil futures are used as a hedge against a weaker dollar.

"A lot of the momentum from late last week was the expectation we would continue to see a weaker U.S. dollar. When that didn't materialize, we had some profit-taking," said James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla.-based trading firms Liberty Trading Group and Option-Sellers.com.

## Food inflation may dodge Midwest flood bullet

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)**—Midwest floods may not contribute as much to food inflation as was feared.

Corn prices fell Monday after the government surprised traders, reporting farmers tried to cash in on soaring corn demand

for ethanol by planting more acres of the crop than the market expected.

That could be good news for shoppers, although food prices still have to contend with rising costs for distribution and for fuel.

Farmers will harvest nearly 9

percent fewer acres of corn this year than last year, in part because of Midwest flooding that has damaged a portion of the crop, the government reported.

But the latest USDA figures also showed that farmers had planted more than a million additional acres of corn than they had expected to plant in March, which may remove some of the inflation potential out of the floods. Corn futures prices fell in the wake of Monday's report.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said farmers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres of corn, down 8.7 percent from the 86.5 million harvested last year.

The report also indicates farmers planted nearly 7 percent fewer acres of corn than last year - 87.3 million acres versus last year's 93.6 million acres.

But the acres planted were still higher than the 86 million acres that farmers had anticipated planting in corn when asked about it in March.

Grain analyst Dan Basse, president of Chicago-based AgResource Co., an agricultural consulting firm, said high corn prices encouraged farmers to find more land to plant in corn.

Even with the anticipated reduction in harvested acres caused by flooding, Basse said a robust corn harvest could soften corn prices.

"They'll weaken with time and I don't see an economic reason why new crop corn futures need to be above 8 or new crop soybean futures need to be above 16 unless we have a drought," he said.



In this June 21, 2008 file photo, flood damaged corn plants are shown on Bill Talsma's farm near Colfax, Iowa.

## Stocks end difficult first half with quiet session

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wall Street ended a grueling first half quietly Monday, closing mixed as investors again based their trades on what has become the dominant force in the market: the price of oil. The major indexes closed out the first six months of 2008 with double digit declines, and are perilously close to the levels of a bear market.

This was the worst first half for the Dow Jones industrials since 1970, when the country fell into recession. The more diverse Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq composite indexes had their worst first half since 2002, when Wall Street was still suffering through the

aftermath of the dot-com bust, the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and a recession.

On Monday, stocks pulled back in the early going as oil reached yet another record, this time, above \$143 a barrel. The market then gathered some strength as crude lost momentum and allowed some investors to consider buying equities that have been turned into bargains by months of volatility.

There is little expectation on the Street that the chaos of the first half will soon end. Besides the punishing effect of higher oil, which threatens the stifle consumer spending and in turn, an economy still struggling

to grow, the stock market is still contending with warnings of losses at financial companies - the continuing fallout of the housing slump and the credit crisis that began nearly a year ago.

These problems that show little sign of being resolved soon left Wall Street in tatters as the first half ended. The Dow is down nearly 20 percent from its record high of 14,198.09, set in October, putting the blue chips on the threshold of a bear market. The market did have a spring recovery, which began in March, but it foundered in May as the combination of credit problems and higher oil rattled investors.

| STOCK Portfolio |  |
|-----------------|--|
| ASIAN MARKETS   |  |
|                 | <b>AUSTRALIA</b><br>5,292.100<br>Down 40.800<br>(-0.77%) |
|                 | <b>HONG KONG</b><br>22,102.01<br>Up 89.29<br>(+0.27%)    |
|                 | <b>JAKARTA</b><br>2,365.2571<br>Up 16.152<br>(+0.69%)    |
|                 | <b>TOKYO</b><br>13,521.19<br>Up 39.81<br>(+0.30%)        |
|                 | <b>K. LUMPUR</b><br>1,186.57<br>Down 3.97<br>(-0.33%)    |
|                 | <b>MANILA</b><br>2,415.25<br>Down 44.73<br>(-1.82%)      |
|                 | <b>SINGAPORE</b><br>2,946.25<br>Down 1.29<br>(-0.04%)    |
|                 | <b>SEOUL</b><br>1,664.09<br>Down 10.83<br>(-0.65%)       |
|                 | <b>BANGKOK</b><br>768.59<br>Down 7.14<br>(-0.92%)        |

| LEADING INDICATORS |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                    | <b>DOW</b><br>11,350.01<br>+3.50    |
|                    | <b>NASDAQ</b><br>2,292.98<br>-22.65 |
|                    | <b>S&amp;P</b><br>1,280.00<br>0.00  |

| MONEY MARKET       |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Australian Dollar  | 1.0455  |
| British Pound      | 0.5024  |
| Canadian Dollar    | 1.02    |
| Chinese Renmbi     | 6.8558  |
| Euro               | 0.635   |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 7.7972  |
| Indian Rupee       | 43.136  |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 9215.5  |
| Japanese Yen       | 106.105 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 3.2665  |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.3143  |
| Philippine Peso    | 44.862  |
| Singapore Dollar   | 1.3608  |
| South Korean Won   | 1044.95 |
| Swiss Franc        | 1.0206  |
| Taiwan Dollar      | 30.347  |
| Thailand Baht      | 33.42   |

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Chrysler to close 1 plant, cut production at 2nd

**DETROIT (AP)**—The worsening U.S. auto sales slump hit Chrysler LLC again Monday as it announced plans to close one St. Louis-area factory and cut a shift from another because of declining demand for minivans and pickups. Officials with the Auburn Hills-based automaker said in a conference call that it will shutter the St. Louis South plant, which makes minivans, effective Oct. 31. The St. Louis North plant, which makes full-size pickups, will be cut from two shifts to one effective Sept. 2. The minivan plant's closure will cut 1,500 jobs, and it wasn't clear if the company would ever recall the 900 workers who will be laid off at the pickup truck plant. Both factories are in Fenton, a St. Louis suburb.

#### Wachovia quits offering risky mortgage loan

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—Beleaguered consumer bank Wachovia Corp. said Monday it will quit offering a mortgage payment option that allows borrowers to pay less each month than the bank charges in interest. The choice to pay less was one of the options of Wachovia's controversial Pick-A-Payment mortgages, which offer customers four different payment options each month. Wachovia said it will no longer offer the less-than-full interest payment option on all new home loans. Wachovia also said it is waiving all prepayment fees associated with its Pick-A-Payment mortgages. Critics have said paying less than the amount of interest charged can lead to negative amortization. That means the borrower owes more than the value of their home, increasing the chance of foreclosure.

#### Yahoo takes its defense against Icahn to investors

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Yahoo Inc. began pressing a case to major shareholders Monday that its board and management deserve a chance to prove they made the right move when they rejected a \$47.5 billion takeover offer from Microsoft Corp. The missed opportunity to sell to Microsoft infuriated many Yahoo shareholders, prompting activist investor Carl Icahn to agitate for replacing Yahoo's nine directors and reviving negotiations with Microsoft. If he gains control of the board, Icahn intends to fire Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang as chief executive. In response, Yahoo has assembled a 32-page presentation for shareholders to elaborate on the points it has been emphasizing since Microsoft withdrew its bid May 3.

#### Auto stocks slide with poor US sales results ahead

**DETROIT (AP)**—Shares of General Motors Corp. dropped to their lowest level in more than half a century, and Ford Motor Co. stock also tumbled to a new low Monday amid rising fuel prices and the possibility of poor sales numbers for June. GM shares hit \$10.57 shortly after the market opened, falling below the previous 52-week low of \$11.21, which was also their lowest level in more than 53 years. But the shares later rebounded to \$11.50, down 5 cents, or 0.4 percent, from Friday's close of \$11.55. They have traded as high as \$43.20 in the past year. The last time GM shares dropped below \$10.57 was on Sept. 22, 1954, when they hit \$10.47, according to the Center for Research in Security Prices at the University of Chicago.



## Nation

## Obama disowns critique of McCain's record



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., center, talks to his communications director Robert Gibbs, left, and aide Reggie Love in his campaign charter at Midway International Airport in Chicago on Monday, June 30, 2008.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)

—Democrat Barack Obama rejected a retired general's suggestion that Republican John McCain's military experience didn't necessarily qualify him to be president, as GOP surrogates lined up to label the remarks indecent and disrespectful.

A day after retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, now an Obama supporter, discussed McCain's experience as a Navy pilot and prisoner of war in Vietnam on a Sunday talk show, his remarks set off the pattern that has become familiar from innumerable earlier flaps over surrogate remarks during the presidential election year: The candidates, Obama and McCain, took the high road while the bare-knuckled language was left to their surrogates.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama and Bill Clinton ended their mutual silent treatment Monday, with the Democratic presidential candidate reaching out and asking his former Democratic nemesis to help him win the White House.

In their first conversation since the end of the heated primary, former President Clinton agreed to campaign for the candidate he portrayed as inexperienced for a presidential run. Obama had said Bill Clinton's harsh criticisms led him to wonder which Clinton he was running against sometimes.

The 20-minute conversation was the latest step in bringing together the two

warring camps. While Hillary Rodham Clinton has been publicly behind Obama, hard feelings remained between the former Democratic president and the candidate hoping to become the next one.

At a news conference here Monday, McCain himself said of Clark's comment, "That kind of thing is unnecessary" and distracts from real pocketbook issues voters care about.

About the same time, Obama told an audience in Independence, Mo., that McCain had "endured physical torment in service to our country" and "no one should ever devalue that service, especially for the sake of a political campaign, and that goes for supporters on both sides."

## Surprising fact: Half of gun deaths are suicides

ATLANTA (AP)—The Supreme Court's landmark ruling on gun ownership last week focused on citizens' ability to defend themselves from intruders in their homes. But research shows that surprisingly often, gun owners use the weapons on themselves.

Suicides accounted for 55 percent of the nation's nearly 31,000 firearm deaths in 2005, the most recent year for which statistics are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There was nothing unique

about that year - gun-related suicides have outnumbered firearm homicides and accidents for 20 of the last 25 years. In 2005, homicides accounted for 40 percent of gun deaths. Accidents accounted for 3 percent. The remaining 2 percent included legal killings, such as when police do the shooting, and cases that involve undetermined intent.

Public-health researchers have concluded that in homes where guns are present, the likelihood that someone in the home will die from suicide or homicide is much greater.

Studies have also shown that homes in which a suicide occurred were three to five times more likely to have a gun present than households that did not experience a suicide, even after accounting for other risk factors.

In a 5-4 decision, the high court on Thursday struck down a handgun ban enacted in the District of Columbia in 1976 and rejected requirements that firearms have trigger locks or be kept disassembled. The ruling left intact the district's licensing restrictions for gun owners.

## Pentagon announces charges in USS Cole bombing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon said Monday it is charging a Saudi Arabian with "organizing and directing" the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole—and will seek the death penalty.

Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Hartmann, legal adviser to the U.S. military tribunal system, said charges are being sworn against Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi of Yemeni descent, who has been held at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since 2006.

The charges still must be approved by a Defense Department official who oversees military tribunals set up for terrorism suspects. If they are approved, al-Nashiri he will be the first person charged in the United States in connection with the attack nearly eight years ago.

Hartmann said the allegations include conspiracy to violate laws of war, murder, treachery, terrorism, destruction of property and intentionally causing serious bodily injury.

Seventeen American sailors

were killed and dozens wounded when the Navy destroyer was attacked in the Yemeni port of Aden as it refueled.

Al-Nashiri is also accused of a role in the Oct. 6, 2002, suicide attack on the Limburg, a French oil tanker, Hartmann said. The attack killed a Bulgarian crew member and spilled 90,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf of Aden.

Al-Nashiri told a hearing at Guantanamo Bay last year that he confessed to helping plot the Cole bombing only because he was tortured by U.S. interrogators.

## Rocky Mountain conservation deal tops \$500M

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Some of the most prized land in the northern Rocky Mountains is being protected from development in a conservation land deal hailed as the largest of its kind in U.S. history.

More than 300,000 acres of critical habitat for threatened and endangered animals, including grizzly bears and lynx, will be transferred to public ownership in a \$500 million deal with Plum Creek Timber. A

ceremony was held Monday in Kalispell to sign the agreement.

Plum Creek Timber is turning over about a quarter of its Montana holdings in a deal backed by the federal government, which is pitching in \$250 million, said U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

The land includes huge parcels in the scenic Swan Valley north of Missoula, and near the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. The Nature Conservancy and

The Trust for Public Land said the land will be managed as a working forest with places of harvestable timber.

The deal, which involves the equivalent of 500 square miles, spans a region known as the Crown of the Continent, a place environmentalists say is one of the most intact ecosystems remaining in the country. The government is expected to eventually take ownership of a majority of the land.

## ACROSS THE NATION

## Search for missing girl turns to uncle's property

CHELSEA, Vt. (AP)—The investigation of the disappearance of a 12-year-old girl zeroed in on her uncle Monday, with police searching his home while he was being arraigned on sex charges in an unrelated case. Michael Jacques, a registered sex offender who was one of the last people seen with Brooke Bennett before she vanished, pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated sexual assault and was held in lieu of \$250,000 bail. Jacques attorney, L. Brooke Dingle, called the evidence against him in that case "very sparse." Col. James Baker, the head of the Vermont State Police, called Jacques a "person of interest" in Brooke's case at a Monday press briefing. He said investigators began focusing on Jacques based on information developed over the weekend through computer forensics.

White at the time of his death, as did an unspecified number of supervisors.

## Wildfires force firefighters to pick their battles

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—With hundreds of wildfires raging across remote, rugged parts of California for a second week, fire officials have been forced to strategically choose which to fight and which to leave to burn for weeks or even months. The number of fires burning in central and Northern California - more than 1,000 according to state fire officials - means authorities can't send firefighters to battle every blaze, Jason Kirchner, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, said Monday. It's also impossible to attack wildfires in some rugged, remote areas because the risk to firefighters is too great, he said.

## Abu Ghraib inmates sue contractors, claim torture

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP)—Three Iraqis and a Jordanian filed federal lawsuits Monday alleging they were tortured by U.S. defense contractors while detained at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. The lawsuits allege that those arrested and taken to the prison were subjected to forced nudity, electrical shocks, mock executions and other inhumane treatment. They seek unspecified payments high enough to compensate the detainees for their injuries, and to deter contractors from such conduct in the future. Allegations of abuse at the Baghdad prison first erupted in 2004.

## Police killing suspect's jail death ruled homicide

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP)—The death of a 19-year-old found slumped in his cell a day after he was jailed on charges of running over and killing a police officer has been ruled a homicide, authorities said Monday. The Maryland Medical Examiner ruled Monday that Ronnie White's death in Prince George's County Correctional Center the previous day was from asphyxiation and strangulation. Maryland State Police and the FBI are investigating the death. The FBI is focusing on possible civil rights violations. Officials said seven guards had access to



# Asia

## US, NATO deaths in Afghanistan pass Iraq toll

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Militants killed more U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan in June than in Iraq for the second straight month, a grim milestone capping a run of headline-grabbing insurgent attacks that analysts say underscore the Taliban's growing strength.

The fundamentalist militia in June staged a sophisticated jailbreak that freed 886 prisoners, then briefly infiltrated a strategic valley outside Kandahar. Last week, a Pentagon report forecast the Taliban would maintain or increase its pace of attacks, which are already up 40 percent this year from 2007 where U.S. troops operate along the Pakistan border.

Some observers say the insurgency has gained dangerous momentum. And while June also saw the international community meet in Paris to pledge

\$21 billion in aid, an Afghanistan expert at New York University warns that there is still no strategy to turn that commitment into success.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has noted that more international troops died in Afghanistan than in Iraq in May, the first time that had happened. While that trend - now two months old - is in part due to falling violence in Iraq, it also reflects rising violence in Afghanistan.

At least 45 international troops - including at least 27 U.S. forces and 13 British - died in Afghanistan in June, the deadliest month since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban, according to an Associated Press count.

In Iraq, at least 31 international soldiers died in June: 29 U.S. troops and one each from the former Soviet republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan. There

are 144,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and 4,000 British forces in addition to small contingents from several other nations.

The 40-nation international coalition is much broader in Afghanistan, where only about half of the 65,000 international troops are American.

That record number of international troops means that more soldiers are exposed to danger than ever before. But Taliban attacks are becoming increasingly complex, and in June, increasingly deadly.

A gun and bomb attack last week in Ghazni province blasted a U.S. Humvee into smoldering ruins, killing three U.S. soldiers and an Afghan interpreter. It was the fourth attack of the month against troops that killed four people. No single attack had killed more than three international troops since August 2007.



In a Wednesday, June 25, 2008 file photo, Canadian soldiers with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) leave an armored vehicle as an Afghan helicopter flies overhead in the Arghandab district after it was recaptured by NATO and Afghan troops from Taliban militants last week in Kandahar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan.

## RP trial court convicts man of killing Peace Corps volunteer

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A woodcarver was convicted Monday of killing a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer who disappeared while hiking in the northern Philippines' mountainside rice terraces.

Juan Duntugan wept after a regional trial court in northern Ifugao province found him guilty of murdering Julia Campbell in April 2007. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison without parole.

Duntugan had confessed to bludgeoning Campbell, 40, with a rock and a stick in a fit of rage when she accidentally bumped into him on a narrow

mountain trail. Duntugan said he was upset from a spat with a neighbor.

Judge Ester Piscoso-Flor also ordered Duntugan, 27, to pay Campbell's family about 40 million pesos (US\$889,000) in damages, including her funeral expenses. Duntugan, who can appeal, was to be moved to a maximum-security prison complex in Manila, court officials said.

The judge said she could not impose the death penalty because it has been banned in the country.

"This is justice for Julia," prosecutor Reynaldo Agran-

zamendez told The Associated Press by telephone from Ifugao, about 160 miles (260 kilometers) north of Manila.

"But justice can only compensate, it cannot bring her back to life," he said.

U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney thanked all those who worked to solve Campbell's killing and said it was time to move on. The Peace Corps continues the local volunteer work "that meant so much to her," she added.

The U.S. Peace Corps has assigned more than 8,000 volunteers to the Philippines since 1961, Philippine officials say.

## At least 17 killed in RP clashes with rebels

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine troops, backed by helicopter gunships, are pursuing communist rebels who attacked a town hall and two police stations in the south, sparking two days of sporadic battles that have killed 17 people, the army said Monday.

At least 15 New People's Army guerrillas and two policemen have been killed while 12 other rebels have been captured since the clashes began Saturday on Siargao island and in nearby Surigao del Norte province, army spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said.

The clashes were the latest

flare-up of violence in the 40-year-old communist insurgency, one of Asia's oldest. The Maoist rebels, blacklisted by Washington as terrorists, have become more active in recent months, attacking remote military and police outposts and convoys to seize badly needed weapons.

About 60 guerrillas attacked the town hall and police station of Dapa, raided another police station and burned a cellular phone tower in nearby General Luna town in coordinated attacks late Saturday, army spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said.

They took three M16 assault

rifles, computers and appliances from the Dapa police station and town hall and seized another rifle from the General Luna police station before withdrawing, regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico said.

Authorities barricaded roads to slow the rebels, who split into two groups and escaped aboard five motor boats to the islands of Siargao and Lapinigan, Rico said.

About 300 reinforcement troops and police clashed Sunday with about 30 fleeing rebels on Siargao. Another group of 30 rebels was believed to have been surrounded by troops on nearby Lapinigan island, he said.

## Blast kills 8 at Pakistan militant base

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—An explosion wrecked a militant compound Monday, killing as many as eight people while Pakistani paramilitary forces pushed deeper into a border region where extremists threaten the city of Peshawar and a key supply line for U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Pro-Taliban Militants targeted by the offensive in the Khyber tribal area claimed a missile was fired from nearby Afghanistan, but a Pentagon official said he knew of no cross-border attack and a Pakistani officer said stored explosives blew up.

The nighttime blast, which buried bodies in piles of shattered masonry and mud bricks, came at the start of the third day of an offensive by Pakistan's paramilitary Frontier Corps.

Troops faced no resistance Monday and were able to occupy key hilltops and re-establish checkpoints that had been abandoned by tribal police, said a se-

nior Frontier Corps officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment to journalists.

He said troops in the Bara area, which starts on the outskirts

of Peshawar, advanced in the direction of the remote Teerah valley. But it remained unclear if the Frontier Corps planned to push into the valley, where militants are thought to have fled.

So far, the Frontier Corps reported destroying several militant posts, including a radio station and alleged torture cells, but claimed to have killed just one insurgent.

The Interior Ministry said the operation was launched to protect Peshawar from "law breakers and militant groups" and would continue until "all the objectives are achieved." It has outlawed three armed Islamic groups operating in the region.

The show of force - expected to last several more days - comes amid U.S. concern that the newly elected government's effort to negotiate peace deals with militants has given Taliban and al-Qaida-linked extremists more space to operate along the lawless border.



A local Pakistani tribal man visits a house destroyed by government forces in Qambarkhel in Pakistan's tribal area of Khyber Monday, June 30, 2008.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Algae woes hit China's Olympic sailing host city

**BEIJING (AP)**—To host the Olympic sailing events, the Chinese port city of Qingdao moved a massive boat yard, relocated industries and spent about \$850 million on transport links, parks, pollution controls and coastal green belts. But with little more than a month to go until the Games, a different challenge is cropping up: A forest of blue-green algae is choking the coastal waters, suffocating beaches and lying in thick layers along sailing routes. Authorities have ordered an all-out drive to clear it and block any more drifting into the area. City officials say they'll need at least two weeks to clear coastal waters, mobilizing 10,000 workers aboard 1,000 boats. It wasn't clear how they planned to block other algae from drifting in.

#### Australian police charge suspect in ax killings

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)**—A 69-year-old Australian man was charged with hacking his two grandchildren and wife to death with an ax and badly wounding his daughter, police said Tuesday. John Walsh was charged with three counts of murder and one of attempted murder in connection to

the attack Monday in Cowra, 155 miles west of Sydney, a police statement said. He faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. He was arrested without incident about six hours after paramedics were called to the house where the bodies were found, the police statement said. The suspect was at a motel in the town of Hay, about 260 miles west of Cowra. Cowra Mayor Bruce Miller said the children were aged 7 and 5. Their mother, Shelley Walsh, 31, was a police officer who worked in a nearby town.

#### 28 militants are killed in southern Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—U.S.-led forces backed by warplanes battled militants in southwestern Afghanistan, killing 28 rebels including several Taliban commanders, an Afghan official said Monday. NATO said it killed several more insurgents in coordination with Pakistani forces along the mountainous border, while three troops from the U.S.-led coalition died when their vehicle rolled into a riverbed. The accident happened Sunday when the troops were patrolling in Arghandab, a valley in Kandahar province that foreign and government forces recently retook from Taliban militants, the coalition said. It released no other details.



## World

## Iraq opens bidding on 8 oil, gas fields

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraq opened international bidding for eight enormous oil and gas fields Monday, paving the way for investment in a nation with some of the world's largest petroleum reserves.

If approved, contracts to update and manage those fields could involve the biggest foreign stake in Iraq since its oil industry was nationalized more than 30 years ago and help Iraq reach its goal of nearly doubling

petroleum production by 2013.

That could be good news with the price for a barrel of oil breaching \$143 for the first time ever on Monday. But the contracts won't be signed for a year, and if Western firms win

a dominant role it could feed perceptions that U.S.-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein to get at Iraq's natural resources.

Those concerns were heightened by expectations that Iraq would announce short-term no-

bid consulting contracts with five Western oil firms on Monday. The New York Times reported about two weeks ago that the firms included Royal Dutch Shell PLC, BP PLC, Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron and Total.

But Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahrastani told a news conference Monday that the Iraqi government was still negotiating with the companies, which he did not identify. He said the firms were demanding a share of oil production while Iraq wants to pay in cash.

The minister said the short-term contracts were meant to boost production until the government awards longer-term deals next June. But some believe the consulting contracts could give the winning firms an

advantage in bidding for the development contracts, which al-Shahrastani said Monday would include 35 foreign companies.

The firms he named included seven from the U.S., three from Britain and others from Russia, China and other countries.

Al-Shahrastani said the companies would be invited to bid on the oil fields of Rumeila, Zubair, Qurna West, Maysan, Kirkuk and Bay Hassan and the natural gas fields of Akkaz and Mansouriyah.

"These fields were chosen because their production can be raised in a short time and at a low cost," said al-Shahrastani.

He said even the longer-term contracts would include cash compensation and not a share of oil production.

## No public criticism for Mugabe at African summit

**SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt** (AP)—Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe entered an African summit accompanied by the meeting's host Monday, a sign that African leaders won't shun him despite Western demands they take a tough stance over his re-election in a tainted ballot.

But behind the scenes, some leaders were pushing for Mugabe to share power with his rival, Morgan Tsvangirai, who dropped out of Friday's runoff election after allegedly state-sponsored killings and beatings of his supporters.

While many African countries—including regional powerhouse South Africa—were unwilling to condemn Mugabe, criticism by the U.S. and Europe only mounted.

France said Monday it considered Mugabe's government "illegitimate," and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown urged the African Union to reject the result of the runoff.

The summit should "make it absolutely clear that there has got to be change" in Zimbabwe, Brown said in London. "I think the message that is coming from the whole world is that the so-called elections will not be recognized."

Zimbabwe's longtime ruler basked in the opportunity at the AU to show regional recognition of his victory, a day

after he was sworn in as president for a sixth term.

He entered the conference hall alongside his host, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in a symbolic gesture of his status.

Still, there was little overt warmth for Mugabe in public sessions. But while mingling with leaders before the opening meeting, he hugged several heads of states and diplomats, said an African delegate who was present.

"He was hugging everyone, pretty much everyone he could get close to," said the delegate, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't supposed discuss the private gathering.

During public speeches in this Red Sea resort, most AU leaders spoke of the "challenges" in Zimbabwe and none said anything harsh about Mugabe.

But Jendayi Frazer, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for African affairs, said she believed that in private leaders would "have very, very strong words for him."

"I would suggest that one not take from the soft words in an open plenary as a reflection of the deep concern of leaders here of the situation in Zimbabwe," she told reporters.

At the White House, press secretary Dana Perino also suggested behind-the-scenes pressure, saying Mugabe's actions have "cast a negative light on

some really good, democratic leaders in Africa."

"There are a lot of them who

are working very hard to institute democratic reforms in their own way," she said.



Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe leaves after attending the eleventh ordinary session of the assembly of the African Union heads of State and government in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Monday, June 30, 2008.

## US deaths in Iraq at 4,113

As of Monday, June 30, 2008, at least 4,113 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,353 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The AP count is three fewer

than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each. (AP)

## Sarkozy combative as France assumes the EU presidency

**PARIS** (AP)—President Nicolas Sarkozy was in combative mood Monday as France assumed leadership of the European Union, criticizing the bloc's trade chief and warning Europe's central bank against raising interest rates.

Some analysts have questioned whether Sarkozy's sometimes brash and often fiery remarks would not be tantamount to a military intervention. He risks being labeled a traitor at home, and leaders elsewhere in Africa might bristle at his perceived lack of sufficient nationalist sentiment.

While under pressure from Western governments and human rights activists to take a hard line, African leaders have long had close ties with the 84-year-old Mugabe, renowned as a campaigner against white rule and colonialism. Even those who can claim to be champions of democracy are reluctant to be seen as backing the West against a fellow African.

In a TV interview, Sarkozy reiterated France's priorities during its half-year at the helm would be stemming the influx of illegal immigrants, combating global warming and softening the blow of oil prices. He said Europeans also want

the EU to deal with threats posed by globalization.

"The European idea will be in danger if we don't protect Europeans," Sarkozy said.

One of Sarkozy's long-standing complaints is that the EU's euro currency is overvalued, hurting European economic competitiveness in global trade. The European Central Bank is widely expected to raise its interest rates this week amid high inflation in the euro zone—a move that could send the currency even higher against the dollar.

Sarkozy said raising interest rates would prevent people and companies from borrowing and investing. He blamed inflation on rising prices for commodities like oil and said doubling or even tripling interest rates would not bring oil prices down.

"Don't tell me that to fight inflation, we must raise interest rates," he said.

Sarkozy indicated that he, like his predecessor as French president, Jacques Chirac, would be a strong defender of European farmers.

## Few options for Zimbabwe opposition

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (AP)—The two paths of Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai are telling: Mugabe, newly sworn in as Zimbabwe's president again, is at a summit of African leaders while the opposition leader holes up in a Western embassy in Zimbabwe's capital.

Tsvangirai is hemmed in by Mugabe's policemen, soldiers and ruling party thugs as well as the president's cozy relationship with fellow African leaders.

The round-faced, ever-affable Tsvangirai insists he is hopeful—"As far as we are concerned we are nearer a resolution than we have ever been," he says—but his options appear few.

He wants African leaders to guide negotiations on forming a coalition government to



A man reads a copy of the state owned daily newspaper, 'The Herald' a day after President Robert Mugabe was sworn in as president of Zimbabwe in Harare, Monday, June, 30, 2008.

oversee a transition to democracy in Zimbabwe. While some leaders have publicly endorsed that idea, it is unclear how hard they will or can push Mugabe, who has ruled since independence in 1980.

Tsvangirai wants the African Union to send in peacekeepers. That, too, is unlikely, given the difficulties the body already is having with its stalled mission in Sudan's Darfur region, undertaken

jointly with the United Nations. AU peacekeepers also are struggling in Somalia.

Tsvangirai, a 56-year-old former trade union leader, is on sensitive ground when he proposes outside help, as shown by his repeated clarifications that peacekeepers would not be tantamount to a military intervention. He risks being labeled a traitor at home, and leaders elsewhere in Africa might bristle at his perceived lack of sufficient nationalist sentiment.

While under pressure from Western governments and human rights activists to take a hard line, African leaders have long had close ties with the 84-year-old Mugabe, renowned as a campaigner against white rule and colonialism. Even those who can claim to be champions of democracy are reluctant to be seen as backing the West against a fellow African.



# Campus Life

## NMI students explore careers in health field

The CNMI Public School System's Summer Health Careers Program started on June 8, 2008 and ended on June 20, 2008. The program is for students who are interested in pursuing careers in the field of health.

Students and mentors stayed at Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel for almost two weeks. They had classes in anatomy and physiology, chemistry, math, problem-based learning, English assessment skills, health and wellness, and team building. The classes were held at Saipan Southern High School.

The students also had the opportunity to shadow health care professionals at the local hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center.

The participants were:

### KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- Consolacion Igisomar
- Mylulang Ryan Litulumar
- Remylynn Mafnas

### MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL

- Cinderella Cuengco
- Cheska Salen
- Dawn Sarmiento



■ Antonio Tipples

### ROTA HIGH SCHOOL

- Lara Costales
- Michael Cruz
- Janice Mendiola
- Joseph Taimanao
- Sueann Waguk

### SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

- Adrienne Ancheta
- Kaelani Dempan
- Ann Mariel Flores
- Donna Formalejo
- Lisa Marie Pushparaj
- Cherita Yangirefil

### TINIAN HIGH SCHOOL

- Janessa Aquino
- Grace Borja
- Donnie Dosalua
- Nisha Shrestha
- Terilynn Taisacan
- Virginia Wedding

### MENTORS

- Ms. Cora Cepeda
- Ms. Sharleen Crisostimo
- Ms. Jocelyn Manibusan
- Ms. Jennifer Mendiola
- Mr. James Priest
- Ms. Diana Lynn Taisacan
- Mr. Jesse Tudela
- Mr. Iros Waguk



■ Ms. Monica Pangelnan

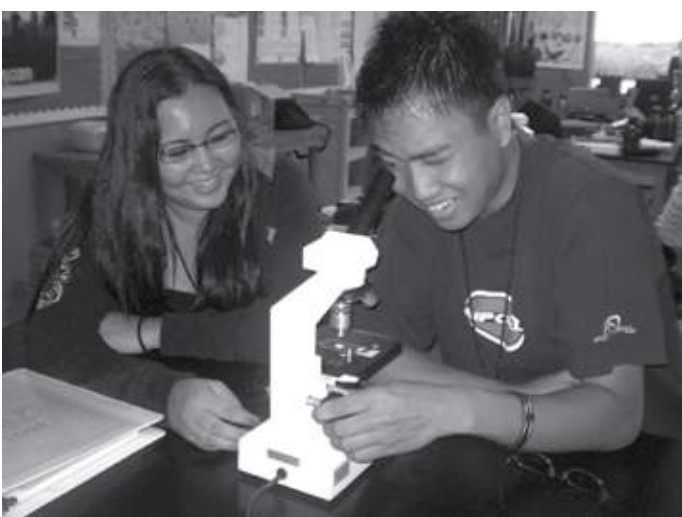
### PSS CENTRAL OFFICE SUPPORT

- Mrs. Del Maratita
- Mr. Brian Torres
- Mrs. Jackie Quitugua

The program acknowledged the following for their support:

- Mr. Craig Garrison and Mr. Peter Leau, SSHS Administration
- Mr. Mario Palacios, Bus Driver
- Mr. Joe Santos and Health Care Professionals, CHC

- Aquarius Beach Tower
- Cruz Catering
- National Office and Supply
- Pacific Islands Club
- DYS





## Life & Style

# Beijing boasts stunning new buildings

**BEIJING (AP)**—This ancient capital city, long known for the architectural splendor of its centuries-old palaces and temples, is getting a new look that could have been plucked from science fiction.

A series of landmarks, notable for their futuristic design, will greet visitors to the Olympics. They include an Olympic stadium that looks like a giant bird's nest, a swimming venue literally built of bubbles and a pair of black office towers that lean toward each other at a 10-degree angle.

"This is the hottest place on Earth in terms of architecture," said Rory McGowan, a Beijing-based director of Arup, the British design and engineering firm, which is involved in several signature projects in the city. Architects and designers "are flocking over here in the thousands to look at Beijing."

As China's economy started taking off about 20 years ago, a similar transformation began changing the face of Beijing. Scores of traditional courtyard homes, factories and drab communist-inspired apartment blocks have been razed in recent years to make way for high-rise buildings with names such as "Fortune Plaza," "Soho" and "Park Avenue."

Now, with the Olympics coming, the construction has turned into a round-the-clock frenzy as the host city seeks to convey an innovative and forward-looking image. Such projects could change Beijing's image as a stodgy city, particularly compared to cosmopolitan Shanghai, where foreign architects first gravitated a few years ago.

The "Bird's Nest" Olympic stadium was designed by Swiss firm Herzog and de Meuron, known for turning a hulking former power plant in London into the Tate Modern art museum. It's a 91,000-seat bowl that will host the opening and closing ceremonies along with track and field events. The stadium's nickname comes from an exterior of steel "twigs" that form a massive, curving nest.

Motorists regularly disrupt



The construction site of the new China Central Television headquarters building is seen in Beijing. The building's two angled towers were connected in December to form a continuous loop of horizontal and vertical sections. The complex is due for completion before the Olympic Games later in the year. The spectacular 230 meter (755 foot) building, one of Beijing's tallest, will house more than 10,000 staff.



In this May 25, 2008 file photo, a photographer focuses on the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest, in Beijing. The stadium hosted the Good Luck Beijing China Open Athletics competition, a test event for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

traffic on an adjoining highway as they stop to snap photos.

Across from the Bird's Nest is perhaps Beijing's most whimsical building: the Water Cube, the swimming venue for the Games.

Builders used material similar to plastic wrap to create 4,000 translucent bubbles, which were filled with air and bolted to a metal frame. The material allows sunlight to filter in and the sounds of splashing water to flow out.

China Central TV's new headquarters was planned by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, who designed the Seattle Public Library, the Prada store in New

York and the Casa da Musica concert hall in Porto, Portugal.

Its two 37-story towers of black glass on diamond-shaped steel beams bend toward each other and are joined at the top by a sloping horizontal section that ranges from nine to 14 stories.

It looks like a pair of bermudas, and Chinese have dubbed it "Big Shorts."

Not everyone likes the city's changing look.

"Most of the venue designers are foreign, and they don't know Chinese culture well enough," said Zhang Song, a professor in the college of architecture and urban planning at Tongji University in Shanghai. "They tended to focus mainly on surrealism, avant-garde style and postmodernism. These things are very good for a short time, but as times passes by, I wonder if they will last as classic design."

Beijing's other new buildings include a gargantuan airport terminal, with slanted skylights atop an arching roof, meant to mimic scales on a dragon's back. In the heart of the city is a glass and titanium dome nicknamed "The Egg," the sprawling national theater entered by walking under a clear-bottomed moat.

The change is dizzying—many of the structures have opened just within the past year—but city planners shrug it off.

"I don't think it's anything to make a fuss about," said Tan Xuxiang, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Planning Commission. "It's like a growing child. I'm a 12- to 14-year-old kid. If you see me after two years and I haven't grown, then I definitely have some kind of illness, right?"

Some, though, lament the loss of old Beijing. While the impe-



China's new National Theater is reflected in a pool on the day it opened to the public for the first time, in Beijing. The controversial egg-shaped theater will seat 6000 people when completed.



In this Feb. 9, 2004 file photo visitors walk between buildings in the SoHo apartment complex in Beijing.



In this Oct. 10, 2007 file photo a Chinese security guard is silhouetted by the steel glass structure of the National Grand Theater in Beijing, China.

rial Forbidden City and other tourist sites remain, many of the old courtyard homes—nestled amid the city's "hutongs," or alleyways—have been lost.

The days when hutong dwellers filled the streets in the evenings are giving way to a more modern and anonymous urban lifestyle.

"When people think of Beijing, they should also understand the traditional aspect of Beijing—the Forbidden City, the numerous hutongs," said Hu Xinyu, managing director of the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center. "That's the real Beijing."



# LA arts high school brings prestige, but high cost

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A steel tower wrapped in a spiraling ribbon is one of the most striking features of a new arts high school set to open next year.

Its \$230 million price tag is another.

The Los Angeles High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, with space for some 1,600 students, most from surrounding low-income neighborhoods, is the architectural crown jewel of the district's ambitious \$20 billion building campaign.

Its spacious studios and 995-seat theater encased in austere concrete are enough to make anybody wish they were a young clarinetist in the district.

Supporters call the five-acre campus a beacon for a reformed educational system, a magnet for good teachers, and a means of raising dismal student performance in the nation's second-largest school district.

"Do these kids deserve this school? Absolutely," said Monica Garcia, board president of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Critics, however, see the school as a wasteful extravagance for a district where more than a quarter of the 700,000 students remain in temporary classrooms and many existing

buildings are in dire need of renovations and repairs.

"It's ludicrous to be spending that much money on one school," said parent Diana Chapman, who helps organize after-school programs at her son's middle school in the city's San Pedro area, about 25 miles from the new campus. "About every school I know needs help."

The price tag of another school, the much-maligned Belmont Learning Center, is approaching \$400 million as it prepares to open in September as the renamed Vista Hermosa Learning Center.

Construction was stymied several times over the past 15 years by revelations that officials had approved building the school atop explosive pockets of methane gas and the discovery of an active earthquake fault beneath the site.

Two years ago, the school board was thinking far outside the traditional box-shape design of school buildings when it gave final approval to the seven-structure arts high school.

The sharp, clean lines of the architecture contrast with the mess the district is trying to build its way out of.

Public school funding in the

state took a hit in 1978 with a voter-approved measure that limited property tax rate increases. Several districts are hard-pressed to attract and retain quality teachers and maintain academic performance standards.

In the Los Angeles district, less than 70 percent of students graduated in 2006, the last year for which data are available.

In addition, severe overcrowding at many of its 1,190 schools have forced about 200,000 students to attend classes in temporary structures and compelled many campuses to operate on schedules that shave weeks off the school year.

The problems led to an unsuccessful takeover attempt last year by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa that would have given him more control over the district's budget and curriculum.

The district began a school-building push in 2001 using \$20.3 billion from four separate bond measures approved by voters. Seventy-two schools have been built so far, with another 60 planned by 2012, district facilities chief Guy Mehula said.

The rising cost of building materials and labor are to blame for the increased cost, Mehula said.

Officials initially budgeted



Work continues at the Los Angeles High School for the Visual and Performing Arts.

about \$70 million to build a conventional high school with a more basic design. Its makeover into an art school—originally expected to cost around \$120 million—was promoted by billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad.

Former school board mem-

ber David Tokofsky said he voted for the redesign because he thought Broad, a longtime financial supporter of school programs and area cultural institutions, would contribute more to construction costs.

"I'm all for an arts school as

part of the cultural spinal cord of downtown, but right now it's a spinal tap on the construction fund because we expected to get outside monies," Tokofsky said.

Broad declined an interview request through his foundation's spokeswoman, Karen Denne.

She said the philanthropist promised no more money to the arts school than the \$3.1 million he has already contributed for construction and the \$1.9 million he has pledged toward the salary of a full-time fundraiser and other operating expenses.

She said Broad is open to giving more money once the school has a principal and curriculum is in place.

Lawrence O. Picus, who directs the University of Southern California's Center for Research in Education Finance, said well-appointed schools like the arts campus are attractive to good teachers who could help boost academic performance.

But he said districts in Seattle and Jacksonville, Fla., have shown significant improvement by recruiting and retaining better teachers and revising curriculums, not through construction drives.

The arts school sits on the highest point of downtown's Bunker Hill on the edge of a cultural district that includes other architectural gems like the Museum of Contemporary Art and Walt Disney Concert Hall.

## 'Singing Office' scans the help for entertainers

**LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)**—It's not a typical day at the airport. Melanie Brown, the season five "Dancing with the Stars" runner-up, is traipsing around with a camera crew in tow, begging JetBlue employees to croon "Like a Virgin" a cappella.

No need to alert the Long Beach Airport's TSA crew, or even TMZ—Brown is simply filming a segment for "The Singing Office," a new tongue-in-cheek TLC vocal competition.

In each episode of this Dutch reality TV import (premiering June 29 at 9 p.m. EDT on TLC), co-host Brown and fellow former "Dancing" contestant Joey Fatone surprise employees at two separate workplaces with impromptu auditions. Today, the 33-year-old Spice Girl is courting everyone from JetBlue baggage carriers to flight attendants.

"It's not like 'American Idol' or 'Dancing with the Stars,'" Brown told The Associated Press during a recess from her quest for five amateur singers to make up a new performance group. "It's not a serious competition. It gives people a break from their everyday lives to have some fun with their co-workers."

Eventually, her JetBlue crew will have to prepare for a different kind of takeoff. After a weeklong dancing and singing bootcamp with a professional choreographer and vocal coach, the group will perform in front of a studio audience against an-



In this image released by TLC, Melanie Brown, host of the new singing competition "The Singing Office," left, listens as Jet Blue flight attendant Kraig auditions for the show aboard one of Jet Blue's Airbus A320 at the airport in Long Beach, Calif., on April 5, 2008.

other team helmed by former 'N Sync member Fatone. Then, the crowd will pick a winner.

During this day of filming try-outs last April, there was no rehearsal, off-camera interference from producers or even a long line to audition. Instead, Brown merely ambushed JetBlue employees on camera with a list of preapproved songs to sing, and the workers responded by unabashedly singing—granted, mostly badly—their hearts out.

"This doesn't work if it's overly produced," said executive producer Scott Sternberg. "The thing about this format is it only works if it's real and unscripted. It's more than just a competition. It's about real people going outside of themselves and performing in front of a studio audience. It can be a very uplifting experience."

It certainly was for Las Vegas-based flight attendant Melissa Louch. She tried out aboard a plane between flights.

"It was surreal," Louch, 32, said of auditioning for Brown in front of reality TV cameras. "I've wanted to do this my whole life, but an opportunity like this has never presented itself before. It's all very overwhelming but very exciting. Mel B. threw me off a little bit, but I think I busted it out."

She did. Later that day, Brown announced who made her quintet—which included Louch—in front of JetBlue spectators gathered in a training room. Leading up to their performance, the group learned choreography and lyrics to Alicia Bridges' disco anthem "I Love the Nightlife." They were also outfitted with some custom-made '70s threads.

## Death and Funeral Announcement

# THOMAS CABRERA SABLAN

Born: Nov. 1, 1952  
Was called to his eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on  
Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at the age of 55.

In his new life, he now joins his:

**Parents:** Tomas Palacios Sablan & Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan  
**Wife:** Francisca Vicenta Diaz Magofna Sablan  
**Siblings/In-Laws:** Vicente S. Sablan, Soledad S./Francisco C. Basa Gregorio S./Victoria M. Sablan, Faustina S./Fernando M. Benavente, Jesus S. Sablan, Daniel T. Muna, Rita S. Mettao, Maria DLR. Gonzales, and Joaquin C. Sablan.

**Parents-in-Law:** Pedro Bias/Ana Diaz Magofna  
**In-Laws:** Amalia, Amalia & Sylvan Canice D. Magofna

**Survived by his:**  
**Children:** Thomas Jr. (Hannaeka, Thomas III, Keoni, Maria, and Tahnje-Joie), Yvonne/Derek Guzman (Thomas Peter, Tiana, Thea, and Tyarra), Marlene/Alvin T. Mendiola (Louanne and Matua), Ana (Tommie Frances and Teisha), Tammy (DeShaun and Francisca), Peter and June M. Sablan.

**Siblings/In-Laws:** Maria M. Sablan, Ana S./Henry T. Indalecio, Rita G. Sablan, Juana S. Muna, Natividad Sablan (Raphael Demapan), Matilde S./Martin M. Taisacan, Manuel C./Consolacion C. Sablan, Raphael M. Mettao, Maria S./Juan L. Ada, Alfredo A. Gonzales, Isabel S./Melchor U. Maratita, Pedro C./Ignacia M. Sablan, Margarita S./Jose T. Castro, Bernadita S./Isidro T. Cabrera, and Grace C. Sablan.

**In-Laws:** Vicente D./Rosalina Magofna, Rosario D. Magofna, Sinfiorosa D. Magofna, Estella M./Antonio Cabrera, Diana/Jose Santos, Carmen M./Roger Dempsey, Molly Ann M./Manuel Duenas, Cecilia M./Ramon Ngeskebei, James John D. Velma A. Magofna, Step-Mother-in-law: Ana Ada Magofna. He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews

**Nightly Rosary is said immediately after Nightly Mass at 6:00 pm, except on Sunday at 7:00 am at San Antonio Church. On Thursday, July 3, 2008, his body will leave Borja Funeral Homes at 7:00 am and be escorted to San Antonio Church for viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 am and Internment will follow immediately at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.**

**I tinayuyot yan finatton miyo ma sen agradezi. Si Yu'us ma'ase' ginen i famagu'on yan i familia.**



# Pause after Screen Actors Guild contract expires

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The contract between movie and TV actors and major Hollywood studios expired early Tuesday after the studios made a final offer and the Screen Actors Guild said it would take more than a day to study it.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers said the offer was worth more than \$250 million in additional compensation to members of the guild over the three years of the proposed contract.

The current pact expired at 12:01 a.m. PDT, but both sides said they would continue to work under the old contract after the deadline passed.

"In short, our final offer to SAG represents a final hope for avoiding further work stoppages and getting everyone back to work," the alliance said in a statement. The alliance said film production had been "virtually shut down" because of uncertainty about a deal.

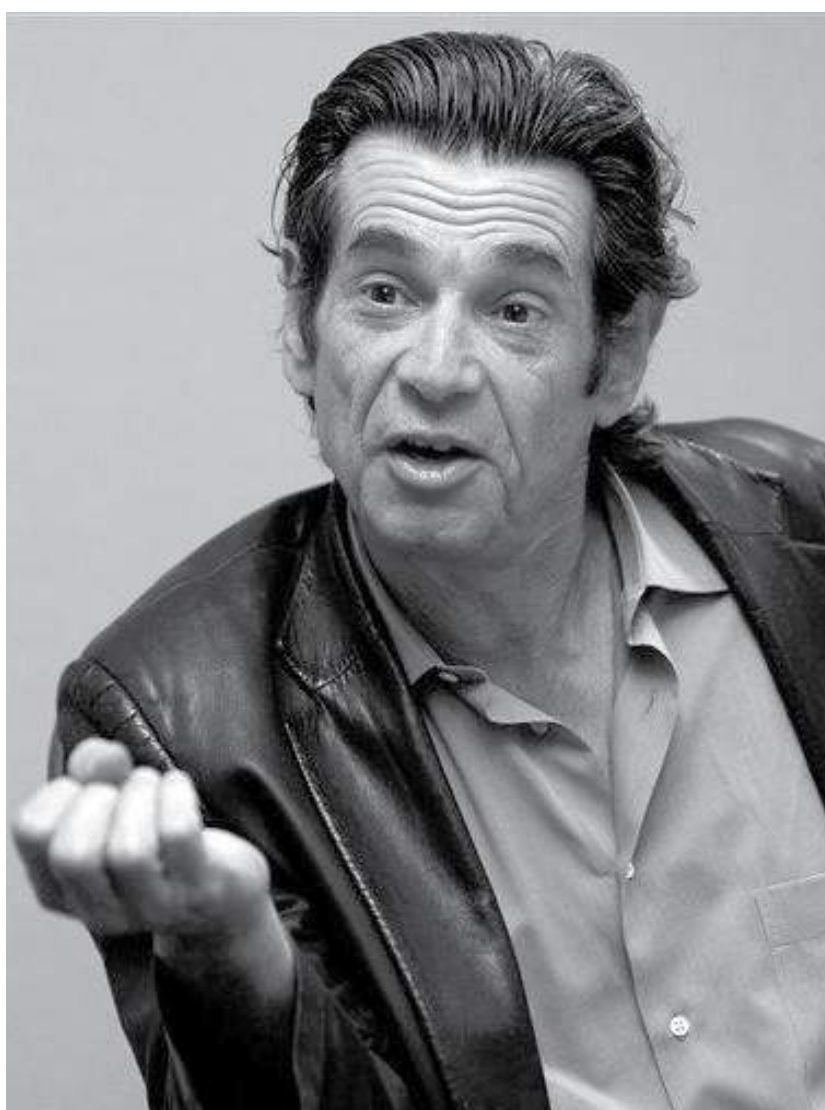
The AMPTP will meet with guild representatives Wednesday afternoon to explain the offer, but will not entertain counterproposals, spokesman Jesse Hiestand said.

The guild said it would prepare a formal response once it analyzes the 43-page offer, but SAG's chief negotiator, executive director Doug Allen, immediately criticized it.

"This offer does not appear to address some key issues important to actors," he said in a statement.

For example, residual payments to actors for reruns of productions that were made only for the Internet were "incalculable," he said, adding it would "mean the beginning of the end of residuals."

The offer, made less than five months after the 100-day writers strike, was in line with deals cut with directors and writers guilds, as well as the tentative deal reached in May with the smaller actors union, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, both



In this June 25, 2008 file photo, Screen Actors Guild president Alan Rosenberg talks about current negotiations in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles.

sides said.

The guild, however, has waged an all-out campaign against the AFTRA deal, which some 70,000 members were asked to ratify.

SAG, which represents 120,000 actors in movies, TV and other media, shares 44,000 dual members with AFTRA, which includes actors, singers, announcers and journalists.

Results are due July 8.

The guild has said the AFTRA deal left many areas for improvement, including on residual payments for DVD sales, in the area of advertising weaved into scripts and on compensation for Internet content.

That position suggested SAG would turn down the producers' final offer, said Jonathan Handel, a former lawyer

for the Writers Guild of America.

"SAG says it's reviewing the offer, but in fact what we can expect is a thorough rejection," Handel said. "This really is a situation where we're looking at a bit of a stalemate."

AFTRA declined to comment.

The dispute has split actors who have taken sides between the warring unions.

Tom Hanks, Alec Baldwin and Kevin Spacey and others have urged support of the AFTRA deal, arguing that doing otherwise could result in a painful repeat of the writers strike, which ended in February and is estimated to have caused more than \$2 billion in economic damage.

Jack Nicholson, Josh Brolin, Holly Hunter and others support SAG's tactics, saying AFTRA should return to the bargaining table to get a better deal.

"I hope that cool heads prevail and that people get a chance to work," actor Ron Perlman told Associated Press Television at the weekend premiere of his "Hellboy II: The Golden Army." "I'm hoping and praying that they find some middle ground."

Will Ferrell told AP Television last week that a strike would be unfortunate.

"I don't think anyone wants to have to deal with a strike or go on strike, but if that's what has to be done, that's what has to be done," he said.

In its statement Monday, the producers alliance warned of the damage of another walkout, saying a work stoppage would cost SAG members \$2.5 million in wages every day.

Other labor groups in the industry would lose \$13.5 million, while the California economy would take a daily \$23 million hit, it said.

"With each passing day after June 30, there will be less work for those whose livelihoods depend on our industry," the statement said.

## BOX OFFICE

### 'Wall-E' rakes in \$63.1M

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The robot love tale "Wall-E" rolled over the competition on its debut weekend, hauling in \$63.1 million as it held the Angelina Jolie thriller "Wanted" to a second-place opening.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Media By Numbers LLC:

**"Wall-E,"** Disney, \$63,087,526, 3,992 locations, \$15,803 average, \$63,087,526, one week.

**"Wanted,"** Universal, \$50,927,085, 3,175 locations, \$16,040 average, \$50,927,085, one week.

**"Get Smart,"** Warner Bros., \$20,211,242, 3,915 locations, \$5,163 average, \$77,477,031, two weeks.

**"Kung Fu Panda,"** Paramount, \$11,692,061, 3,670 locations, \$3,186 average, \$179,276,754, four weeks.

**"The Incredible Hulk,"** Universal, \$9,577,245, 3,349 locations, \$2,860 average, \$115,859,210, three weeks.

**"The Love Guru,"** Paramount, \$5,340,895, 3,012 locations, \$1,773 average, \$25,222,377, two weeks.

**"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,"** Paramount, \$5,179,960, 2,556 locations, \$2,027 average, \$300,085,447, six weeks.

**"The Happening,"** Fox, \$3,907,948, 2,483 locations, \$1,574 average, \$59,120,854, three weeks.

**"Sex and the City: the Movie,"** Warner Bros., \$3,808,288, 1,755 locations, \$2,170 average, \$140,170,362, five weeks.

**"You Don't Mess With the Zohan,"** Sony, \$3,175,214, 2,147 locations, \$1,479 average, \$91,190,129, four weeks.

**"Iron Man,"** Paramount, \$2,257,113, 1,379 locations, \$1,637 average, \$309,179,318, nine weeks.

**"The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian,"** Disney, \$1,037,841, 690 locations, \$1,504 average, \$137,665,472, seven weeks.

**"Mongol,"** Picturehouse, \$812,862, 209 locations, \$3,889 average, \$2,288,109, four weeks.

**"The Strangers,"** Universal, \$632,115, 602 locations, \$1,050 average, \$51,519,705, five weeks.

**"What Happens in Vegas,"** Fox, \$370,726, 361 locations, \$1,027 average, \$78,344,563, eight weeks.

**"The Visitor,"** Overture Films, \$295,387, 191 locations, \$1,547 average, \$7,651,884, 12 weeks.

**"Baby Mama,"** Universal, \$205,720, 278 locations, \$740 average, \$59,644,700, 10 weeks.

**"Made of Honor,"** Sony, \$190,960, 291 locations, \$656 average, \$46,012,734, nine weeks.

**"Thoda Pyaar Thoda Magic,"** Yash Raj, \$181,610, 83 locations, \$2,188 average, \$181,610, one week.

**"Forgetting Sarah Marshall,"** Universal, \$124,165, 194 locations, \$640 average, \$62,725,000, 11 weeks.

## Opera manager Edgar Vincent, 90

NEW YORK (AP)—Edgar Vincent, who represented Placido Domingo, Beverly Sills, Mikhail Baryshnikov and a bevy of stars in classical music during a six-decade career, died Thursday following an operation in New York. He was 90.

Vincent died at Lenox Hill Hospital, Patrick Farrell, his business partner, said Monday. He had fallen following surgery to replace a stent in his bile duct, and died during rehabilitation from a blood clot, Farrell said.

Vincent was the primary spokesman for Domingo for the past 20 years.

"There are no words to express the personal loss I feel nor the professional loss to the world of opera," Domingo said in a statement. "I knew Edgar Vincent from the beginning of my career in the U.S. and his impact on my life cannot be measured. In fact, I know of no one who was not touched by Edgar's dignity and humanity throughout the world of music. We will not see the likes of Edgar again."

Vincent managed the careers of Sills and Baryshnikov, and in recent years also represented bass Samuel Ramey, violinist Gil Shaham and composer William Bolcom.

In an career that landed his clients on newspaper front pages and magazine covers, Vincent was the publicist for sopranos Birgit Nilsson and Mirella Freni, mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli, basses Ezio Pinza and Cesare Siepi, and violinist Yehudi Menuhin. He managed conductor Erich Leinsdorf and soprano Teresa Stratas.

Vincent was cremated Monday, according to Farrell, who had worked with Vincent for 21 years.

## Pavarotti widow, daughters agree on inheritance



In this Dec. 13, 2003 file photo, Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti and his bride Nicoletta Mantovani smile after their wedding at Modena's Teatro Comunale, northern Italy.

MILAN, Italy (AP) -- A lawyer for Luciano Pavarotti's widow says his family has come to a friendly agreement on how to divide up his estate.

Pavarotti had drafted two wills near the end of his yearlong battle with cancer. One divided his assets by Italian law, giving half to his second wife, Nicoletta Mantovani, and half to his four daughters. The second left the tenor's U.S. holdings to Mantovani.

Pavarotti died last September. He had three adult daughters from his 35-year marriage to first wife Adua Veroni. He married Mantovani in 2003, and the couple had a young daughter.

Mantovani's lawyer Giorgio Bernini declined Monday to provide details about her agreement with Pavarotti's three eldest daughters. He says a judge is expected to confirm the deal by the end of July.



## Britney house-hunting for bigger backyard



Spears

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Court records show Britney Spears is house-hunting - preferably for something greener, quieter and with a bigger backyard.

Documents released Monday show that Spears seeks a house with a larger yard that's closer to parks and recreation areas for her children, Sean Preston and Jayden James. She also wants a "less trafficked" locale than her paparazzi-stalked Beverly Hills home, which she bought for nearly \$7 million early last year.

Spears' father, James, requested the sale in mid-June, and a court commissioner agreed. James Spears is acting as his daughter's conservator following several incidents of erratic behavior by the 26-year-old singer.

The children's father, Kevin Federline, has custody.

## Fire at Madonna's childhood home 'suspicious'

**ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich.** (AP)—A weekend fire that destroyed a childhood home of Madonna has been deemed suspicious by arson investigators. The Oakland County Sheriff's Arson Unit and the Rochester Hills Fire Department are investigating the Friday night blaze.

A passer-by had noticed flames coming out of the unoccupied house in the Detroit suburb of Rochester Hills and



Madonna

called the fire department.

Rochester Hills Fire Chief Ron Crowell told The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press the fire appears to have started in the living room area. He said it caused extensive smoke and fire damage throughout the two-story brick house.

The 49-year-old Madonna, known then as Madonna Louise Ciccone, spent some of her younger years as one of six siblings living in the home.

## Pamela Anderson auctions car for PETA



This file photo, provided by Shaan Kokin/Julien's Auctions, shows a Dodge Viper owned by actress Pamela Anderson in Malibu, Calif. in May of 2008.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** -- Pamela Anderson has auctioned her sporty 2000 Dodge Viper for \$65,000 as a donation to animal-rights activists to run an anti-snake slaughter campaign.

Michael McGraw, a spokes-

man for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said the group will use the cash to raise awareness about the cruel methods used to skin animals such as snakes and crocodiles, particularly in India.

According to PETA, these animals, whose exotic skins are popularly used in handbags and shoes, are often skinned alive, and suffer for hours or even days before dying.

### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Publicist confirms: Thurman engaged

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It's official: Uma Thurman will marry financier Arpad "Arki" Busson. "I can confirm she is engaged," Thurman's representative, Stephen Huvane, told The Associated Press in an e-mail. Huvane didn't immediately respond Monday when asked for further details. Thurman filed for divorce from Ethan Hawke in 2004. They have two children. The 38-year-old actress was previously married to Gary Oldman. Busson has two sons with Elle Macpherson. Thurman received an Oscar nomination for 1994's "Pulp Fiction." Her screen credits also include the "Kill Bill" thrillers and "My Super Ex-Girlfriend."

#### 'SNL' alum Chris Kattan weds model Sunshine Tutt

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Chris Kattan, a former cast member of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," tied the knot with model Sunshine Tutt in Yosemite Valley, Calif., on Saturday, his publicist, Jill Fritzo, said Monday. Kattan, 37, appeared on "SNL" from 1996 to 2003. His screen credits include "Corky Romano" and "A Night at the Roxbury." The couple became engaged on Christmas Eve 2006.

#### Bon Jovi to give free concert in NYC

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Bon Jovi will perform free concert July 12 in Central Park. It's billed as a prelude to the July 15 All-Star baseball game, which will highlight the final season at Yankee Stadium. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Jovi will help ensure it goes out in a blaze of glory, hopefully a blaze in late October at the World Series. Bon Jovi's hits include "Livin' on a Prayer," "Bad Medicine" and "Blaze of Glory." Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi said playing Central Park is a dream come true.

## 'Addicted celebs need more time in rehab'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Hollywood has a serious drug problem, and isn't committing the time it takes to fix it, according to Dr. Drew.

Not only are substances plentiful and socially acceptable in most celebrity circles, but stars who seek treatment often opt for abbreviated programs in exclusive environments, Drew Pinsky, host of radio's "Love Line" and VH1's "Celebrity Rehab," told The Associated Press.

Drew, who has studied what draws stars to drugs, presents his findings in the hourlong "VH1 News Presents: Dr. Drew's Celebrity Addiction Special," which airs Tuesday.

"Today, in the celebrity world, we're seeing an addiction epidemic," Pinsky said, adding that the disease of addiction is more deadly than cancer.

"If you had cancer, you would drop everything," he says. "You would take whatever time it needed to do the treatment and do what it takes to get out on the other side. Here's a disease that is more dangerous, and we can't get people to take three months."



In this image released by VH1, Dr. Drew Pinsky is shown. Drew, who has studied what draws stars to drugs, presents his findings in the hourlong "VH1 News Presents: Dr. Drew's Celebrity Addiction Special," which airs Tuesday, July 1, 2008 on VH1.

These compound challenges give celebrity drug addicts a "bad prognosis," Pinsky told The Associated Press.

"I don't like treating celebrities," he said. "It's not a group I would seek out of a population I would necessarily treat as a separate goal because they're very, very difficult."

## Mother of sex offender's baby must choose between the two

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been in a relationship with "Wade" for six years. The situation is this: He has gotten into trouble and can't be around children because he's a registered sex offender. I have an 11-month-old daughter by him. I want to be with Wade and work our relationship out, but if I do, I'll have to give custody of my daughter to my parents and live in my own place with him.

I'm in love with Wade, but I don't know if he loves or wants to be with me anymore despite the fact he keeps saying he wants to be with me. Am I being silly for still wanting to be with him? Your thoughts, please.

CONFUSED AND TORN IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR CONFUSED AND TORN:** Wanting to be with someone you love isn't silly, but it's time for you to think maturely and realize the consequences of your decision. After six years with Wade, you are still single. You could be single forever.

When you became a mother, life stopped being all about you. Wade is a sex offender. What if you should become pregnant again? Is it fair to your parents to dump your daughter on them like an unwanted pet? What effect could it eventually have on the child? Do you fully understand that what you have in mind will isolate you from relatives and friends who have minor children?

While I can't dictate what you should do with your life, I can say you're heading in the wrong direction. Please step back and rethink this.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I are unsure how to deal with this, so he suggested I write to you. We have lovely dining room chairs covered with celadon green fabric. In spite of the fact that I always use cloth napkins (and placemats and tablecloths), several of our guests have left large stains on the upholstery from dropping food or from their dirty hands.

The stains are very difficult to remove when we can get them out at all, and the chairs have become unsightly. Three of our most recent dinner guests left chairs stained. One mark covered most of the seat.

These guests are not heavy drinkers. How can we get them to keep their napkins in a position to avoid this? And how do we get them to keep their soiled hands off the chairs? Judging from the condition of their napkins, they ARE using them.

UNHAPPY HOSTESS IN FLORIDA

**DEAR UNHAPPY HOSTESS:** Face it: Accidents happen, and you can't order your guests to wash their hands between courses. You need to accept that a home isn't a photograph in Architectural Digest. Wear and tear are normal.

If your chairs are stained beyond repair, the time has come to re-cover them. In your case, may I suggest Naugahyde the next time around?

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for 12 years to the most self-centered man in the world. He's an astute businessman and a good provider, but when he comes home our conversations are always about him. The moment I start talking about things I think are important, he turns on his TV or shushes me.

I have told him many times how hurtful it is. I feel lonely and unimportant when the things I care about are pushed to the side. How can I get him to stop ignoring me?

THE SILENT PARTNER

**DEAR SILENT PARTNER:** If after 12 years your husband still won't listen to you, have your lawyer talk to him. That should get his attention.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



Pastimes

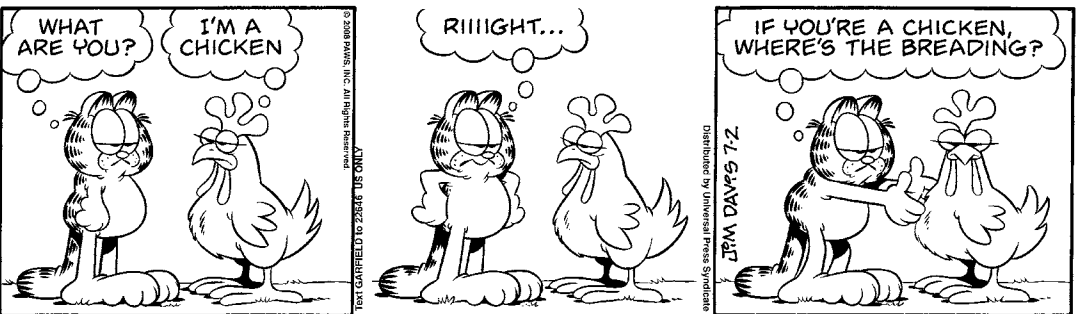
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



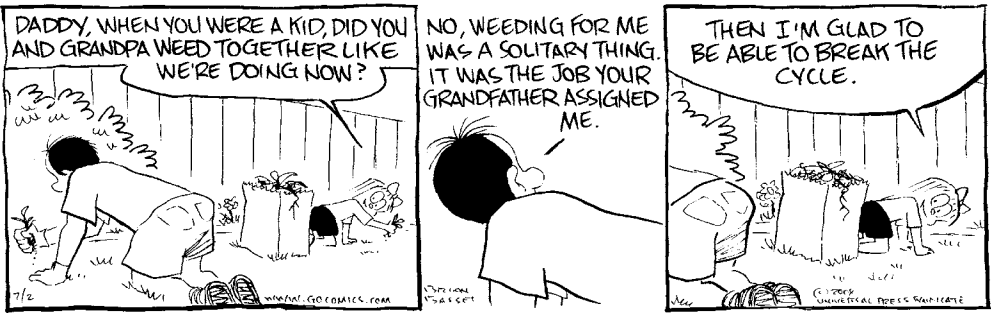
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

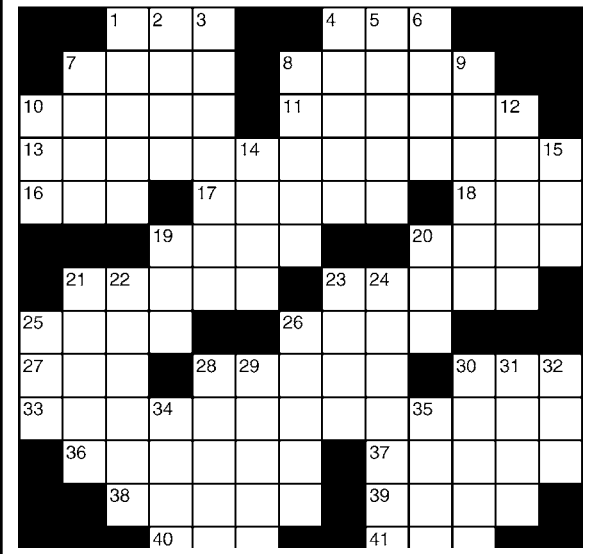


CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 27 Bran source 3 Indebted 19 Clear the tables 1 Whisper sweet 28 Play banjo, maybe 4 Tax-deadline mo. 30 "— Kapital" 6 Litter's littlest 22 Family on sitcom 7 Scourge of one's existence 24 Annual opera 8 Concerning 38 Puts aside 9 Earl Grey holder 25 As shade 39 Car 10 Bound well 26 Unravels 11 Nets 40 Neither 12 Lustrous white at the edges 13 Quick mate 14 The Bee — 28 21-gun salute, e.g. 16 Corral 41 Weep 15 Sandra or Ruby 29 Tenth president 17 Gaggle members 1 Deceive 2 Portent 30 Filthy 31 Bullets and such 32 Vast expanse 34 Campus VIP 23 Delicious 25 Pairs 26 Crease

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Lindsay Lohan, 22; Ashley Tisdale, 23; Michelle Branch, 25; Ron Silver, 62

**Happy Birthday:** Overreacting, taking on too much or letting things get out of hand will be your downfall. The more organized and precise you can be, the better. Change is inevitable, so embrace it. A unique idea can be put into play if you are willing to go the distance to make it happen. Your numbers are 1, 17, 22, 26, 31, 38

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Don't hold back if you think you are right or have something to contribute. However, don't cause a fuss because you are jealous, angry or are just being stubborn. If you can't win fair-and-square, back away. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Information regarding someone from work or your past will cause some upset. Don't react in haste -- you may not have all the facts. Take a serious approach and you can be the one everybody looks to for insight and a clear head when everyone else is overreacting. \*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Prepare to answer important questions that could potentially help you out professionally, financially and personally. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction. An older friend or relative may need your help. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Your emotions will get the better of you if you discuss personal matters. Change is inevitable, so don't

make it more difficult by fighting what's ahead. Focus on friends and family. \*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on what needs to be done, not what you want to do. Be friendly with everyone if you want to manipulate a situation in your favor. Hard work will be required but, in the end, should pay off. \*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do what you know in your heart is the right thing to do by helping others. You will be giving back to an organization or a friend who has been there for you in the past. You can make headway with a meaningful relationship. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't take chances if you don't have to. It's better to stabilize your life, not force change or push others to do things your way. Compromise will get you much further. There is more on the line than you realize. \*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Place yourself in the middle of things to get a good view of what's happening and to be able to turn things around to your advantage. There is no room for error -- you already have the right answers so don't second-guess. Love is on the rise. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A change of heart may leave you wondering what to do next. Take each moment as it comes; listen and observe but don't make a move. Things are just going through a long overdue transition. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time to give back to those who have always been on your side and stood behind you. A proposal can turn into a long-term partnership that will bring you great joy. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Talk matters through with the people close to your heart and you will resolve a lot that was plaguing you in the past. Take advantage of a job opportunity or a chance to pick up a new skill. Creative ideas will lead to positive change. \*\*\*

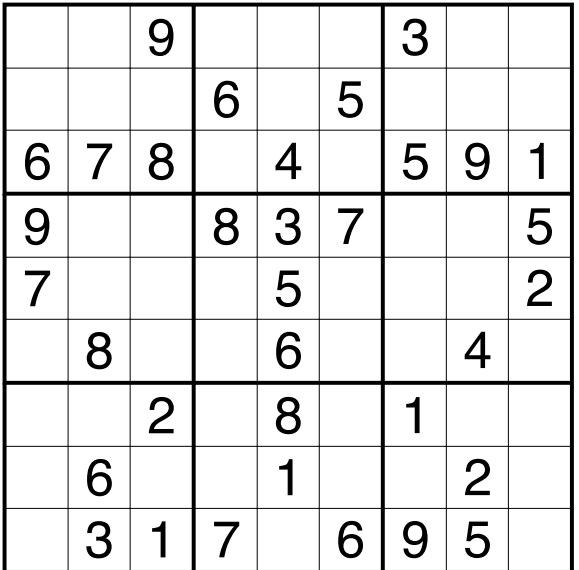
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Do whatever it takes to make yourself feel good. Consider a spa day, taking a class or learning something that will make you more desirable. Don't give in to someone who is critical or always putting you down. \*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, loving and quick to find solutions. You are precise, big-hearted, a good friend and a responsible worker.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

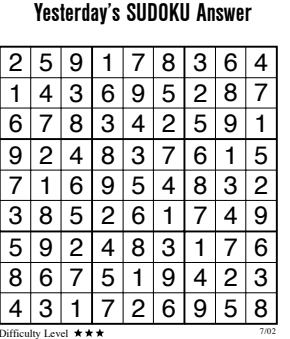
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/02 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| EDITH PIAF                      | Solution: 8 letters |
| P N S E I D O L E M S I R A P   |                     |
| D A H A N A T P O S A R A P O   |                     |
| R D S S H N T N A E T I T E P   |                     |
| A R S S U Y N R E D R A M A U   |                     |
| L E U S I O M E O N A E V O L   |                     |
| L C L O T O L N W H I M I B A   |                     |
| I G L N Y N N U S Y S M E B R   |                     |
| T E I G E N R A C M O L O E M   |                     |
| O R V S O S I O T A L R C R S   |                     |
| C M A R L P C C R E R O K T P   |                     |
| M A N L M T I A V T R I A E A   |                     |
| O N I Y E R T I A D L Y M A R   |                     |
| V P L A Y S L A Z N A V O U R   |                     |
| I O U L E L O U C H N R U O T O |                     |
| E E L P E L E D I W D L R O W   |                     |

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Aznavor, Belleville, Berteaut, Carnegie, Cerdan, Cocteau, Cottard, Dahan, Dany, Drama, German, Hymns, Lelouch, Lepree, Love, Lyric, Melodies, Miraculous, Monnot, Movie, New York, Olympia, Padam, Paris, Passionate, Petite, Pills, Popular, Prominent, Record, Sarapo, Short, Songs, Sparrow, Star, Stay, Sullivan, Sunny, Tour, Worldwide

**Yesterday's Answer: Eldorado**

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Date of Issue: April 21, 1995

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MD. NAZRUL ISLAM

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Find today's solution in this section

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### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues  
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|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1st position</b>         | <b>\$13.00</b> |
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| <b>Succeeding positions</b> | <b>\$2.00</b>  |

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that  
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Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

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#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-  
tion date

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will  
come out the next publication date.

#### Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come  
out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be pub-  
lished on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to  
date of publication.

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to  
date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No  
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### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day  
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date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper  
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate  
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# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER





# Williams sisters both win on 'Graveyard'



**WIMBLEDON, England (AP)**—While Roger Federer glided to another victory on Centre Court, and Rafael Nadal

won despite a scary stumble on Court 1, the Williams sisters found themselves playing back to back Monday on cozy, clattery Court 2, known as the "Graveyard of Champions."

What in the name of lawn tennis were they doing out there?

"It wasn't what I would have liked to see," Serena Williams said. "Initially I thought, 'OK, is this the right schedule?' I thought maybe there was a mistake."

The sisters' mother and coach, Oracene Price, suspected more than a mere mistake by tournament organizers.

"I guess they wanted to put them on the jinx court so they could lose," Price said.

The sisters said Wimbledon gives men preferential treatment in court assignments, while Federer came to the defense of the All England Club, and the tournament referee said there was no intent to slight anyone.

Even after Venus and Serena spent the day at the Graveyard, their title hopes remained very much alive. They're defying the trend in a women's tournament that, by one measure, ranks as the most upset-filled on record.

Four-time champion Venus played first, making a high-noon entrance on the court known for its history of upsets and beating Alisa Kleybanova 6-3, 6-4. Ninety minutes later, two-time champion Serena joined her older sister in the quarterfinals by defeating American Bethanie Mattek 6-3, 6-3.

Neither sister has lost a set in the tournament, and the chances of a sibling showdown in the final keep improving as a wave of upsets take out other title contenders. The fourth round claimed No. 2-seeded Jelena Jankovic and No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova, leaving No. 5 Elena Dementieva as the highest-seeded survivor among the final eight.

The elimination before the quarterfinals of the women seeded Nos. 1-4 has never previously happened at Wimbledon since the tournament began keeping such records in 1927. It's the first time it has happened at any Grand Slam event in the 40-year Open era.

"Every player is ready to play, especially at these Slams," Venus Wil-



Williams sisters Serena right, and Venus in action during their doubles match against Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual at Wimbledon, Monday, June 30, 2008.

iams said. "Everyone comes out with double vengeance, so you just have to be ready."

Jankovic, slowed by a knee injury she suffered in the previous round, lost to No. 60-ranked Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-3, 6-2. Kuznetsova was beaten by No. 14-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Their defeats ensure Ana Ivanovic of retaining the No. 1 ranking next week, even though she was beaten by Zheng Jie in the third round. The No. 133-ranked Zheng, who needed a wild card to enter the tournament, became a first-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist by beating No. 15-seeded Agnes Szavay 6-3, 6-4.

Alla Kudryavtseva, who upset No. 3-seeded Maria Sharapova in the second round, was eliminated by Nadia Petrova 6-1, 6-4.

Tanasugarn, a first-time Grand Slam

quarterfinalist at age 31, will play Venus Williams on Tuesday. The 19-year-old Radwanska will face Serena Williams.

Almost as unpredictable is the men's draw, with eight of the top 10 players eliminated. But the No. 1-ranked Federer and No. 2 Nadal remain on course to meet in the final for the third consecutive year.

While Federer beat 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt for the 12th time in a row Monday, Nadal hurt his right leg against Mikhail Youzhny and stopped in the middle of the second game for treatment by a trainer.

Nadal slipped on worn turf behind the baseline while stretching for a shot, and his right leg bent awkwardly. He said he felt a crack behind the knee.

"I felt a little bit pain," he said. "I was a little bit scared."

After the trainer wrapped Nadal's leg below the knee, the Spaniard showed

no sign the injury bothered him the rest of the way, winning 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

"Right now I am feeling better," Nadal said an hour after the victory. "Tomorrow we will see how I wake up. But hopefully going to be fine."

Nadal will next play No. 12-seeded Andy Murray, trying to become the first British man to win Wimbledon since 1936. He thrilled a partisan Centre Court crowd by completing a comeback win just before dark against No. 8 Richard Gasquet, 5-7, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2, 6-4.

Marat Safin reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time since winning the 2005 Australian Open, beating No. 13 Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1. Safin's opponent Wednesday will be No. 31 Feliciano Lopez, who overcame three match points to defeat No. 10 Marcos Baghdatis 5-7, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 8-6.

Federer will next play the last man to beat him at Wimbledon, Mario Ancic. Federer overcame some shaky moments in the first-set tiebreaker to defeat Hewitt 7-6 (7), 6-2, 6-4, while Ancic outlasted Fernando Verdasco 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 13-11.

Since losing to the big-serving Ancic in the first round in 2002, Federer has won 63 consecutive grass-court matches, including 38 at Wimbledon.

"I completely underestimated him back in 2002," Federer said. "What it taught me was not to underestimate any opponent."

That may be the biggest challenge in the next two rounds for the Williams sisters, who have won six of the past eight Wimbledon titles and are dominating again this year. If the Graveyard of Champions can't stop them, what will?

Court 2 has no tombstones, but the names of losers there includes such former champions as Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors—and both Williams sisters.

There are no replay reviews on Court 2, where the scoreboard is manually operated. There are no seats behind one baseline and only three rows behind the other. Spectators can hear players muttering to themselves, and the soundtrack for matches also includes cheering from other courts and noise from the nearby dining area for players.

"I don't think I've ever played a fourth-round match on a court like that in my career," Serena Williams said.

With all 16 fourth-round matches on the schedule Monday, tournament referee Andrew Jarrett said it was unavoidable that some leading players would be assigned to outer courts. Serena and Venus found themselves back on Court 2 for their evening doubles match, which they also won to reach the quarterfinals.

The tempest about the schedule was defused somewhat because the sisters swept all three matches, and defending champion Venus at first said she had no complaint. But when asked if Wimbledon slights the women when deciding court assignments, she said yes.

Regarding Federer, Serena said, "I haven't seen him on Court 2 in, like, six years."

She's close: He last played there in the 2003 quarterfinals.

Federer said he didn't think the tournament was being disrespectful of anyone. He remembers Sampras losing on the Graveyard in his final Wimbledon match in 2002.

"Pete played on Court 2 after winning seven years," Federer said. "Who deserves what here? It's the club who decides in the end."

"I wouldn't be disappointed if they put me on Court 2. ... Sometimes it's also kind of cool. You're closer to the crowds. It's kind of a different feeling out there."

The Williams sisters might be glad to know the days are numbered for the Graveyard of Champions. As part of a project to renovate the outer courts, a new Court 2 opens next year, while the Graveyard will become Court 3 in 2009—meaning fewer marquee matches—and will eventually be torn down.

In the meantime, Venus has been assigned to the Court 1 stadium Tuesday. Serena is to play on Centre Court, where fans may find them both Saturday.

## Jamison signs 4-yr, \$50M deal to stay with Wizards



**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Antawn Jamison is back in the Washington Wizards fold. Now it's time to focus on Gilbert Arenas. The Wizards achieved a major free agency goal Monday when two-time All-Star forward Jamison signed a four-year, \$50 million contract.

The deal does more than retain the team's co-captain and leading scorer from last season: It serves as an expensive piece of bait to lure Arenas, who had said he would not return unless the team also kept his longtime friend.

"He said he'd take less money if they got me, and they got me," Jamison told The Associated Press. "So I think everything will get worked out with Gilbert."

Two words describe Jamison above all others: steady and reliable. The 32-year-

old strong locker room leader has averaged at least 19.6 points and 7.6 rebounds each year since his arrival in Washington 2004. Last season was arguably the best in his 10-year NBA career—21.4 points and a career-high 10.2 rebounds—as he and Caron Butler helped lead the Wizards to a fourth consecutive playoff berth while Arenas was injured.

"Signing Antawn to a contract extension was a top priority for us this summer," team president Ernie Grunfeld said. "He has been a leader for us both on and off the court over the last four seasons, and we're proud to reward his efforts by bringing him back."

Jamison previously played five seasons with Golden State and one with Dallas. His career averages are 19.6 points and 7.9 rebounds. Last year he was one of only five NBA players to

average at least 20 points and 10 rebounds, and he also posted a career-high 44 double-doubles.

"There wasn't any doubt in my mind that I'd be back," he said.

The Wizards will hold a news conference for Jamison on Tuesday, which is also the first day the team can begin talks with Arenas. The team was able to negotiate with Jamison because he became an unrestricted free agent at the end of the season, while Arenas had to wait until July 1 because he opted out of his contract.

"Once he heard that I had reached a deal, he congratulated me," said Jamison, repeating a text message conversation he had with Arenas. "And I said 'I can't wait to congratulate you tomorrow.'"

Arenas has said he took the opt-out so he could sign a more lucrative deal,

which means talks will likely hover in the \$100 range for a six-year contract.

But he is also acting as his own agent and is known for doing the unexpected—and negotiations could be complicated by the fact that he plans to leave for a sponsor-related trip to China on Tuesday.

Earlier Monday, Grunfeld joked about trying to negotiate with Arenas in a different hemisphere.

"What are you doing?" Grunfeld said, holding his hand to his face as if he were talking on the telephone. "Oh, you're at the Great Wall? Great phone reception."

Jamison, though, is confident his teammate will be back.

"Let me ask you: If somebody offered you, what is it, \$100 million?" Jamison said. "I don't care if you're Gil or you're so-and-so, would you take the deal?"



# Shields, surging Rays beat Red Sox, 5-4



**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida**

(AP)—James Shields scattered five hits over 6 1-3 innings and B.J. Upton and Gabe Gross homered Monday to help Tampa Bay Rays beat Boston 5-4 to open a 1 1/2-game lead in the American League East.

The Rays (50-32), surprising owners of the best record in baseball, have won six of seven and ended a six-game losing streak to the Red Sox. It was the first meeting between the teams since their June 5 benches-clearing brawl at Fenway Park that led to the suspensions of eight players, including Shields (6-5).

Shields limited Boston to two runs before Tampa Bay's bullpen barely held on, giving the Red Sox their first three-game losing streak in more than a month.

J.D. Drew hit his 16th homer for Boston, trimming the lead to 4-2 in the sixth.

## Rangers 2, Yankees 1

At New York, Scott Feldman and a reshuffled Texas bullpen shut down New York on four hits.

The win moved Texas to 43-41, the first time since Sept. 22, 2006, the Rangers have been two games over .500.

Rangers relievers threw 3 1-3 perfect innings, never letting a ball out of the infield. C.J. Wilson closed for his 18th save in 20 chances.

Josh Hamilton looped an RBI single and recently promoted rookie Chris Davis delivered another key hit for Texas off Mike Mussina (10-6).

Alex Rodriguez hit his 534th home run for the Yankees, tying Jimmie Foxx for 14th place on the career list.

## Royals 6, Orioles 5, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Miguel Olivo homered off George Sherrill with two outs in the ninth to force extra innings, and Jose Guillen singled in the tiebreaking run in the 11th for Kansas City.

The Royals rallied from a four-run deficit to win their sixth straight on the road, the team's longest run since 1999. The victory also ended Kansas City's seven-game losing streak at Camden Yards.

Mike Aviles led off the 11th with an infield hit off Chad Bradford (3-3). After a sacrifice and an intentional walk, Guillen blooped an opposite-field single to right.

## Tigers 5, Twins 4

At Minneapolis, Curtis Granderson's go-ahead RBI single capped Detroit's two-run eighth inning.

Granderson's single to right-center fell two steps in front of Carlos Gomez, allowing Matt Joyce to trot home from third and helping Detroit win its sixth straight.

Joyce tripled one batter ear-

lier to score Gary Sheffield with the tying run.

Casey Fossum (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief, and Joel Zumaya got five outs for his first save of the season in his first opportunity.

Minnesota had runners on first and second in the bottom of the ninth, but Alexi Casilla flied out and Joe Mauer grounded out.

## White Sox 9, Indians 7

At Chicago, Nick Swisher homered from both sides of the plate, hitting his second grand slam in four games and adding a solo shot to lead surging Chicago.

Jim Thome got the White Sox

## Athletics 6, Angels 1

At Anaheim, California, rookie Greg Smith threw a four-hitter and Eric Chavez hit a two-run double for Oakland.

Smith (5-6) struck out three and walked two in his second complete game in 16 big league starts. He threw 101 pitches.

Jon Garland (7-5) was charged with four runs—two earned—and eight hits in six-plus innings. He struck out six.

Chavez, a Gold Glove third baseman, was 1-for-5 as the DH after missing the San Francisco series with a sore right shoulder.

Angels outfielder Ryan Sweeney, who missed the previous three games after spraining

an unearned run in seven innings for his seventh straight win and Albert Pujols had two hits and two RBIs in St. Louis' Cardinals' victory over New York.

Chris Duncan added a two-run homer, his first since May 16, for the Cardinals and Aaron Miles had three hits while extending his hitting streak to 12 games.

John Maine (8-6) lasted four innings to match his season low for the Mets, who have lost three of four.

Mark Mulder got the last three outs, making the first relief appearance of his career in his 2008 debut. He missed most of the previous two seasons with a shoulder injury. He allowed two hits with a strikeout.

## Reds 4, Pirates 3

At Cincinnati, Ken Griffey Jr. hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to rally Cincinnati past Pittsburgh.

Griffey's 603rd homer came off Matt Capps (1-3), who started the ninth with a 3-2 lead but couldn't get an out. David Ross opened with a double, and Griffey—who got into the game as a defensive replacement in the ninth—hit the second pitch he saw into the seats in right-center.

Francisco Cordero (3-1) escaped a bases-loaded threat in the ninth to get the win.

Adam LaRoche hit a sacrifice fly and a two-run homer off Aaron Harang, helping the Pirates take a 3-2 lead into the ninth.

## Astros 4, Dodgers 1

At Houston, Roy Oswalt struck out nine in six strong innings, then left with a strained hip as Houston downed Los Angeles.

Oswalt (7-8) allowed a run and six hits, but walked off the field with a trainer after throwing his warmup pitches for the seventh. Manager Cecil Cooper said Oswalt strained his left hip abductor in the sixth inning. Cooper said Oswalt was "day-to-day."

Lance Berkman homered and Brad Ausmus added a two-run single off Eric Stults (2-1) to help the Astros win for the seventh time in 10 games. Jose Valverde pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 22nd save.

## Marlins 6, Nationals 5, 10 innings

At Miami, Josh Willingham hit a home run in the bottom of the 10th for Florida after Hanley Ramirez had forced extra innings with a homer in the ninth.

It was the third career walkoff homer for Willingham, whose shot off Jon Rauch (4-2) was his second of the game. Willingham's two-run homer in the third put Florida ahead 3-1.

Ramirez hit his 18th off Rauch in the ninth. The Marlins shortstop hit a tying homer in the ninth a day earlier to

help Florida defeat Arizona. It was the fifth blown save in 21 chances for Rauch.

## Padres 15, Rockies 8

At Denver, Edgar Gonzalez's second homer of the game capped San Diego's seven-run ninth inning and the Padres beat Colorado to end their eight-game losing streak.

San Diego rallied from five runs down and set a season high for runs.

The Rockies have lost eight straight and nine of their last 10 to fall into last place in the National League West, a half-game behind the Padres. They are a season-high 19 games below .500 (32-51).

The game was tied at 8 entering the ninth when the Padres jumped on Rockies closer Brian Fuentes (1-4). He gave up five of the seven runs before being lifted for Luis Vizcaino, who served up Jody Gerut's three-run homer and Gonzalez's solo shot a batter later. It was Gonzalez's first career multihomer game.

Heath Bell (6-3) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win.

## Diamondbacks 6, Brewers 3

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds homered, doubled twice and drove in three runs for Arizona against Milwaukee.

Stephen Drew added two doubles and Augie Ojeda tripled and singled as the slumping NL West leaders avoided falling below .500. Arizona is 42-41 and leads the division by 3 1/2 games.

Reynolds hit run-scoring doubles in the first and fifth off Milwaukee's Dave Bush (4-8) and added a solo homer, his 17th, in the seventh off Carlos Villanueva.

Brandon Lyon got three outs for his 17th save.

Facing his former team, Doug Davis (3-3) gave up three runs in 5 2-3 innings for his first victory in seven starts.

## Cubs 9, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Mark DeRosa hit a grand slam and a two-run homer to match his career high with six RBIs and Ted Lilly pitched eight shutout innings as Chicago downed San Francisco to end a four-game losing streak.

DeRosa hit his third career grand slam and produced his second multihomer game.

Lilly (9-5), who won his fourth straight decision, allowed two runs and seven hits in eight-plus innings. Closer Kerry Wood got the last three outs, allowing Rich Aurilia's two-run double.

DeRosa's two-run homer came in the fifth off Barry Zito (3-12). He hit the grand slam in the eighth against Billy Sadler to give him 10 home runs, matching his 2007 total.

## Baron Davis opts out of contract with Warriors



**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Golden State point guard Baron Davis elected to become a free agent Monday night, opting out of the final year of his contract with the Warriors in a surprise move.

Davis had until Monday night to decide whether to turn down his \$17.8 million contract for next season, the final year of a six-year deal. The Warriors didn't expect him to opt out of the deal despite little progress in the parties' long-term contract negotiation, but club spokesman Raymond Ridder said they received a letter from Davis' agent, Todd Ramasar, late Monday indicating his intentions.

Davis still could return to Golden State as a free agent, but his opt-out clause was his only bit of leverage in forcing contract talks with the Warriors before next summer. The former All-Star also is now free to negotiate with other clubs, possibly facilitating a sign-and-trade deal with Golden State.

Davis, a 29-year-old veteran, repeatedly has said he intended to return to Golden State, but he might be displeased by Warriors coach Don Nelson's recent declarations about giving more playing time to Golden State's young players, even at the expense of a few victories next season. Nelson reiterated his plan Monday at a news conference to introduce draft picks Anthony Randolph and Richard Hendrix.

Golden State also failed to improve its roster by using its \$10 million trade exception this summer. The exception, which was acquired when the Warriors traded Jason Richardson to Charlotte last June, was due to expire on Monday night.

Davis averaged 21.8 points, 7.6 assists and 4.7 rebounds while playing in all 82 games last season for the Warriors, who finished with the best record in recent NBA history for a non-playoff team.

Davis led Golden State to the second round of the playoffs in 2007, breaking a 12-year postseason drought for the franchise. He added to that achievement by leading the Warriors' first-round upset of top-seeded Dallas.



Tampa Bay Rays pitcher James Shields delivers to the Boston Red Sox during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, June 30, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

started with a three-run homer in the first as the AL-Central leaders won their fifth straight and knocked the Indians 10 1/2 games back.

Cleveland's Jhonny Peralta went 5-for-5 with three doubles, his 12th homer and three RBIs. The Indians scored three in the ninth before Matt Thornton got Casey Blake to line out with a runner on for his first save.

The switch-hitting Swisher, who had a grand slam against the Cubs on Friday, connected from the right side against Jeremy Sowers (0-4) to cap a five-run third inning. It was the major league-leading eighth grand slam given up by Cleveland's pitching staff this season.

Thome's three-run homer was his second in two games and the 523rd of his career.

his left ankle Thursday against Philadelphia, was 2-for-5 in the leadoff spot with an RBI double.

## Blue Jays 2, Mariners 0

At Seattle, Roy Halladay pitched his 10th career shutout, limiting Seattle to just four singles in Toronto's third straight win.

Halladay allowed two singles to Richie Sexson, and a hit each to Willie Bloomquist and Jeremy Reed. The only other Seattle batter to reach base was Ichiro Suzuki, who beat out a potential double play in the third and reached on an error in the sixth.

Halladay (9-6) won for the first time since June 8, throwing his sixth complete game of the season.

## Cardinals 7, Mets 1

At St. Louis, Kyle Lohse allowed



# Recovering Woods says knee was sore 10-12 years

 **BETHESDA, Md. (AP)**—Tiger Woods does not know when he can play golf again, but he said Monday his rebuilt left knee has been sore his entire PGA Tour career and he looks forward to playing on two good legs.

“My left knee has been sore for 10 to 12 years,” Woods said during a conference call for his AT&T National tournament, his

first public comments since reconstructive surgery last Tuesday. “It will be nice to finally have a healthy leg. The doctors have assured me that my long-term health will be a hell of a lot better than it’s been over the last decade. I’m really looking forward to that.”

Woods said doctors in Utah used a tendon from his right hamstring to rebuild the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, which he said had always

been weak and finally snapped while jogging on a golf course last July.

He is in a brace and will be on crutches for three weeks to keep weight off his knee.

Woods said he most likely would not be able to attend the AT&T National, which starts Thursday at Congressional, because there was swelling on the flight home to Florida after surgery and doctors have advised him to avoid planes.

“But who knows?” he added. “I don’t really listen to doctors all that well, anyway.”

Woods apparently wasn’t listening in May when X-rays revealed a double stress fracture in his left tibia as he was getting back in shape from arthroscopic surgery to clean out cartilage in his troublesome left knee after the Masters.

In a story told by swing coach Hank Haney, doctors said the best treatment was for Woods to

spend three weeks on crutches, followed by three weeks of rest. Haney said Woods looked at the doctor and said, “I’m playing the U.S. Open, and I’m going to win.”

Woods said he knew the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines would be his last tournament of the year no matter what happened.


“I really didn’t practice a whole lot going into the Open, and I couldn’t play more than nine holes in preparation for it,” he said. “After dealing with that, I decided to make the U.S. Open my last event for the season, no matter how it turned out. Whether I missed the cut or if I ended up winning the tournament, it was going to be my last event.”

He won in spectacular fashion, making a 12-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Rocco Mediate, then winning on the 19th hole of a playoff. That gave Woods his 14th career major, and five victories in seven starts worldwide this year.

Woods said he had to use crutches for three weeks, followed by gradually putting weight on his knee, then flexing it.

“As far as longterm, I really don’t know,” he said in a conference call that lasted just over 20 minutes. “We have to see how this thing heals. Everyone heals at a different rate. Some people are back to playing sports in six months, some are nine, some are 12. So to be honest with you, no one really knows until we start the rehab process.”

## NMASA July general membership meeting tomorrow

 The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow night, July 3, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

As always, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (June) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during the July

general membership meeting.

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

Among the topics also set to be discussed during the meeting will be the CNMI’s participation in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands.

Cook Islands last year announced that 15 sports featured

in the 2009 edition of the quadrennial Games. The 15 sports are up from the 12 offered during the VII Pacific Mini Games held in Koror, Palau in 2005.

Athletics, table tennis, triathlon, va’a or outrigger canoeing, and weightlifting, bodybuilding, boxing, lawn bowls, rugby league, and touch rugby are the sports lined up for the 2009 Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games.

White earlier said the CNMI could possibly send athletes in

six of the sports, namely athletics, golf, table tennis, triathlon, sailing, and va’a or outrigger canoeing.

White said he is advising all six sports federations to start preparing for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

“The cost of participation is \$3,200 per person, about the same in what we budgeted [going] to Samoa. Now is the time to start getting organized and raise funds.” *(Mark Rabago)*

## FINALS

From Page 28

ity, relief pitcher Julian Miguel Habana came to the Philippines’ rescue when he scored on a stolen base off Indonesia’s pitcher Otto Ajiputra Purwono to give the Southeast Asian nation a 7-6 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh.

The Philippines holding on the win was also placed on the hands of Habana and he calmly took on the challenge, striking out Purwono, Kogi Putratama, and Taufik Ariesta Hakim in 1-2-3 fashion to preserve the victory.

The win was the third in as many games for the Philippines following victories over Guam (7-1) and Hong Kong (4-3).

In the second game, the CNMI cruised to an 8-5 win

against Hong Kong but not before some anxious moments in the seventh inning and even after the game.

The hosts drew first blood when Peter Tenorio drove in Anthony Salas to make it 1-0. They scored five more in he third inning to make it 6-0, highlighted by a couple RBIs each by Harry Nakamura and Justin Kintol.

After the former Crown Colony’s Winston Li crossed home plate in the bottom of the third, the CNMI scored two more in the fourth before Hong Kong made it 8-2 in the fifth on a run by Yusuke Okazaki.

Down to their last three outs, Hong Kong gave the hosts and starting pitcher Joe Palacios some problems when runs by Li, Okazaki, and Takehiro Fujiwara cut their deficit to 8-5.

But all’s well in the CNMI’s front when Palacios’ replace-

ment, Nakamura, fanned the next three Hong Kong batters to complete the win and give the CNMI a 3-0 record in Junior League play.

The CNMI’s win, however, was questioned by Hong Kong coach Michael Reiner and manager Shigeyoshi Fujiwara following the game, alleging that Nakamura was an ineligible pitcher after only one day’s rest.

But since there was no protest made on the field, tournament director Mike Borja said the protest was not entertained.

Last Monday night, the Philippine Junior All-Stars scored four runs in the fifth inning that proved to be enough cushion to stave off Hong Kong, 4-3.

The Philippines and the CNMI, meanwhile, will meet in the finals of the Big League by virtue of both teams beating Guam in the eliminations.

The two teams met in yesterday’s third game with CNMI winning to raise its mark to 2-0, but despite the loss, the Philippines at 1-1 still has a better record than Guam, which is at 0-2.

The finals of the Junior League will be played beginning 9am tomorrow, while the championship of the Big League is scheduled at 1pm.

While the Juniors and Big League finals are set, the same cannot be said about the Senior League’s as all three teams—Guam (1-0), Philippines (1-1), and CNMI (0-1) still have a chance to advance to the finals.

The crucial match will be today’s CNMI-Guam game at 3pm. If Guam wins they will meet Philippines in the finals. In order for the CNMI to reach the finals, they have to beat Guam by a point spread yet-to-be determined by tournament officials.

## CAREYS

From Page 28

bikes, but I like my road bike.”

Mieko reported that like the bike course, the run course was also mostly up and down.

“We ran two loops. The course was sometimes off-road and hilly.”

Kevin, for his part, competed in the men’s 35-39 age

group and finished in a time of 5:40:20.18. He completed the swim in 43:05.613, needed 3:05:53.190 to finish the bike course, and ran the race on two legs in 1:47:10.000.

Mieko, in a post in the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation website, said initially she didn’t know what time she completed the race, “because after finish the organizers and the park service made us leave

fast because of the tornado!”

Mieko said despite the tornado scare, she and Kevin enjoyed their participation in the 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3.

“There were 1,400 athletes on the start line. Everything was big and professional—organizers and athletes...some of the pros were really pros. They won last year’s nationals. Their bikes were awesome. I have never seen [some of them and] I wanted to steal

[them],” she said jokingly.

“Some of the pros said it was the hardest course because of the hills and the wind. They all say they thought Kansas was flat, but it was more difficult than the backside of Saipan. About 4,000 people were cheering with cowbells, whistles, and I saw a deer... no it was a turtle! I want to come back and finish in less than five hours. Now time to be a cowgirl.”

## SIMON

From Page 28

one of only two keglers who rolled a perfect game at the Garapan bowling alley, fired a four-game series of 201, 169, 236, and 172.

For finishing 1-2-3, Manacop, Hensley, and Robles earned \$100, \$40, and \$25, respectively.

Nick Gutierrez and Lito Teodoro completed the Top 5 with

pinfall totals of 772 (193 average) and 771 (192.75), respectively.

Gutierrez had bookend 200-plus throws—217, 161,160, and 234—in his four-game roll-off, while Teodoro recorded a series of 188, 178, 171, and 234.

In the women’s side, Gina Sablan topped erstwhile leader Gloria Omechalang’s opening night score of 714 by rolling a 749 on Monday.

Sablan started out with a modest 177 but heated up with rolls of

203 and 211 before completing her run with a pedestrian 158 to finish with an average of 187.25.

Omechalang slid to second place after her 178.5 average (201, 171, 144, and 198) was topped by Sablan.

Mel Regis took third place with her pinfall total of 704 and 176 average (146, 155, 223, and 180).

Sablan went home \$50 richer, while Omechalang and Regis pocketed \$25 and \$15 for their ef-

forts last Sunday and Monday.

Last Sunday, Raphael Zapanta added the June championship to monthly titles he won in February, March, and May 2008 by rolling 751 pinfalls, good for a 187.75 per game norm.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes as well as the Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes are sponsored by MAR-PAC. The tournaments are organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

|           | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    |
|-----------|----|----|------|-------|
| Tampa Bay | 50 | 32 | .610 | —     |
| Boston    | 50 | 35 | .588 | 1 1/2 |
| New York  | 44 | 39 | .530 | 6 1/2 |
| Baltimore | 41 | 40 | .506 | 8 1/2 |
| Toronto   | 41 | 43 | .488 | 10    |

Central Division

|             |    |    |      |        |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Chicago     | 47 | 35 | .573 | —      |
| Minnesota   | 45 | 38 | .542 | 2 1/2  |
| Detroit     | 42 | 40 | .512 | 5      |
| Kansas City | 38 | 45 | .458 | 9 1/2  |
| Cleveland   | 37 | 46 | .446 | 10 1/2 |

West Division

|             |    |    |      |        |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Los Angeles | 49 | 34 | .590 | —      |
| Oakland     | 45 | 37 | .549 | 3 1/2  |
| Texas       | 43 | 41 | .512 | 6 1/2  |
| Seattle     | 31 | 51 | .378 | 17 1/2 |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

|              |    |    |      |        |
|--------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Philadelphia | 44 | 39 | .530 | —      |
| Florida      | 43 | 39 | .524 | 1/2    |
| New York     | 40 | 42 | .488 | 3 1/2  |
| Atlanta      | 40 | 43 | .482 | 4      |
| Washington   | 33 | 51 | .393 | 11 1/2 |

Central Division

|            |    |    |      |        |
|------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Chicago    | 50 | 33 | .602 | —      |
| St. Louis  | 48 | 36 | .571 | 2 1/2  |
| Milwaukee  | 44 | 38 | .537 | 5 1/2  |
| Houston    | 40 | 43 | .482 | 10     |
| Cincinnati | 39 | 45 | .464 | 11 1/2 |
| Pittsburgh | 38 | 44 | .463 | 11 1/2 |

West Division

|               |    |    |      |       |
|---------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Arizona       | 42 | 41 | .506 | —     |
| Los Angeles   | 38 | 44 | .463 | 3 1/2 |
| San Francisco | 36 | 47 | .434 | 6     |
| San Diego     | 33 | 51 | .393 | 9 1/2 |
| Colorado      | 32 | 51 | .386 | 10    |

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 7, N.Y. Mets 1  
Florida 6, Washington 5, 10 innings  
Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 3  
Houston 4, L.A. Dodgers 1  
San Diego 15, Colorado 8  
Arizona 6, Milwaukee 3  
Chicago Cubs 9, San Francisco 2  
Texas 2, N.Y. Yankees 1  
Kansas City 6, Baltimore 5, 11 innings  
Tampa Bay 5, Boston 4  
Detroit 5, Minnesota 4  
Chicago White Sox 9, Cleveland 7  
Oakland 6, L.A. Angels 1  
Toronto 2, Seattle 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Asia-Pacific Little League Standings

Big League

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| CNMI        | 1 | 0 |
| Philippines | 1 | 0 |
| Guam        | 0 | 2 |

Senior League

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Guam        | 1 | 0 |
| Philippines | 1 | 1 |
| CNMI        | 0 | 1 |

Junior League

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Philippines | 4 | 0 |
| CNMI        | 3 | 0 |
| Hong Kong   | 1 | 2 |
| Guam        | 0 | 2 |
| Indonesia   | 0 | 3 |

Schedule July 2

|      |                    |         |
|------|--------------------|---------|
| 9am  | Guam vs. Hong Kong | Juniors |
| 11am | RP vs. CNMI        | Juniors |
| 1pm  | Guam vs. CNMI      | Seniors |
| 3pm  | Make-up Game       | Open    |

## CUKI

From Page 28

to is Trench Tech’s scheduled Fan Appreciation Fight Night scheduled on that day where, “the first 100 fans will be free, the next 100 fans will pay \$1, and the next 100 fans after will pay \$2 and so on...”

Also according to Alvarez, Neil “Lionheart” Taisacan of Haga Team is doing fine after he was forced to tap out in his semi main event match-up against

Slade “The Rage” Adelbai. Ditto for “No Way” Jose Mafnas of Trench Tech/Grappling Unlimited Hawaii who lost via submission against “Brutal” Bryson Sablan.

“He (Taisacan) is fine and will fully recover from a slightly dislocated shoulder and Jose ‘No Way’ Mafnas suffered a minor sprain on his left knee via a knee lock, but is walking around and feeling much better and will start training next week. Other than that, all was a slammin’ success!”



# Trench Warz VIII: Kontra

Photos BY MARK MENDIOLA



Shane Alvarez of Trench Tech pummels Brandon "Commotion" Camacho of the predators during their 135-lb. match in Trench Warz VIII: Kontra held last June 21 at the Trench Tech Gym.



Team Fight to Win's Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu is declared the winner of his 155-lb. fight against Arnold "Killer B" Balbin of Zalaka.



Team Xtreme's "Kill" Bill Saures has Trench Tech's Darryl "The Derailer" Salas on a shoulder lock in their 200-lb. match.



"No Way" Jose Mafnas of Trench Tech/Grappling Unlimited Hawaii and "Brutal" Bryson Sablan in action during their 190-lb. match.



Far left, team Fight to Win's Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu and Arnold "Killer B" Balbin of Zalaka stare each other down before the start of their 155-lb. match.

Left, Syl Teregeyo of Marianas and Rob "Pitbull" Palacios stare each other down prior to their 195-lb. fight. Teregeyo won via arm-lock submission.



Jun "Shockerraba" San Nicolas of Spike 22 and Lyle Guerrero of Zalaka square off in their 125-lb. fight in Trench Warz VIII: Kontra.



Darryl "The Derailer" Salas of Trench Tech tries to outmaneuver Team Xtreme's "Kill" Bill Saures in their 200-lb. match. Salas upset Saures via first round stoppage.

Right, "No Way" Jose Mafnas of Trench Tech/Grappling Unlimited Hawaii has the upper hand against "Brutal" Bryson Sablan in their 190-lb. match. Sablan would turn things around moments later and beat Mafnas on a knee lock submission.

Far right, a shockingly slimmed down Slade "The Rage" Adelbai of Trench Tech is about to put on a series of moves that led to Neil "Lionheart" Taisacan of Haga tapping out after suffering a dislocated shoulder.







## Shields, surging Rays beat Red Sox, 5-4

James Shields scattered five hits over 6 1-3 innings and B.J. Upton and Gabe Gross homered Monday to help Tampa Bay Rays beat Boston 5-4 to open a 1 1/2-game lead in the American League East.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Williams sisters both win on 'Graveyard'

While Roger Federer glided to another victory on Centre Court, and Rafael Nadal won despite a scary stumble on Court 1, the Williams sisters found themselves playing back to back Monday on cozy, clattery Court 2.



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28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Finals in Juniors, Big League set

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The championships in both the Junior League and Big League will pit host CNMI against the Philippines following three days of baseball action under the brutal heat of Saipan's scorching hot sun.

The two finalists in the Junior League of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament were determined yesterday after the Philippines and CNMI beat Indonesia and Hong Kong, respectively, at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

In the first game, the Philippines held off a gallant comeback by Indonesia before prevailing with the thinnest of margins, 7-6.

The International Little League Association of Manila took a 6-0 lead after five and a half innings only to see the Indonesians explode for six runs in the bottom of the sixth that tied the count.

With extra innings a remote possibility, See CUKI on Page 28



CNMI Junior All-Star Harry Nakamura is congratulated by teammates and assistant coach Oliver Secharmidal after he retired Indonesia's last three batters to preserve the team's 8-5 win yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

MARK RABAGO

# Careys return from 2008 Ironman Kansas

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Careys—Kevin and Mieke—returned from the 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3 race last week, an event made more memorable by a tornado that touched down at Lawrence as the triathlon was about to wrap up.

Mieke, who won silver in the half marathon of the 2008 Oceania Championships Saturday, came in sixth in her age group (30-34 years old) and was the 21st woman overall to cross the finish line in a time 5:31:16.97.

The 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3 was held last June 15 and consisted of a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bike, and a 13.1-mile run.

The former Pacific Islands Club club-



Mieke, left, and Kevin Carey took part in the 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3 held last June 15 in Lawrence.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

mate negotiated the swim in 35:32.008, pedaled the bike course in 2:52:21.630, before putting on her running shoes and completing the run in 2:00:19.090.

Mieke said the swim was a bit cold because the lake's temperature was 74 degrees.

"For people here, they said the water was warm. Almost everybody wore a wetsuit," she said, adding that waves came about every three minutes.

Meanwhile, she said that the bike course was harder than the Tagaman Triathlon.

"There was no flat. Only up or down. No time to eat or drink or get [power] gel. The wind was also strong. But I liked it. The aid stations were awesome. They have Gatorade, gel, water, ice, sponge. The course had a cross which we passed four times. I could see Kevin behind me. Many people used triathlon

See CAREYS on Page 28



Gina Sablan is flanked by runners-up Gloria Omechalang, right, and Mel Regis during the awards ceremony for the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Monday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Simon, Gina are King and Queen for June

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Simon Manacop and Gina Sablan were victorious in the June 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament held last Sunday and Monday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Manacop won the men's division of the monthly tournament after rolling a pinfall total of 814 last Sunday, which was good for an average of 203.5 per outing.

The Department of Public Safety officer was feeling it right from the get-go, firing a 217 in his first game and a 234 in his second. He tapered a bit in his third and fourth attempts, knocking

down 173 and 190, respectively, but his total score was still good enough to top the two-day tournament.

Jonathan Hensley wound up in second place with a total of 806 and 201.5 average that he also bowled last Sunday. The Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) employee was scorching hot in his first game, toppling 255 pinfalls.

Unfortunately, Hensley followed up that monster score with a so-so 199 in the second game before wrapping up his campaign with mediocre pinfalls of 166 and 186 in his third and fourth games.

Danny Robles' attempt to catch up with the leaders Monday only netted him third place overall with a total of 778 and 194.5 average. Robles,

See SIMON on Page 28

# Cuki says kudos to MMA fans

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

## TRENCH TECH

Trench Tech president and Trench Warz promoter Cuki Alvarez recently extended his sincere appreciation to mixed martial arts fans who came out in droves to watch Trench Warz VIII: Kontra held last June 21 at the Trench Tech Gym.

"I just want to thank all the diehard MMA Trench Tech fans for coming out and supporting Trench Warz VIII. Although it was the first time we had it in our new gym, it definitely will not be the last," he said.

Alvarez acknowledged that the venue was a bit too warm for everyone in attendance's comfort but made a good spin out of the situation when he said, "I know it was a little hot in the beginning and that was because the action was hot!"

But kidding aside, the Trench Tech president said he will continue to make improvements in the Trench Tech Gym in the months to come.



Alvarez

"We will continue to work on improving our facility and especially our air-conditioning system. You got to remember, the building was a dilapidated 21-year-old garment factory and when we moved into the place two months ago, it was in much need of a facelift—both inside and outside—and much was improved since we first moved in," he said.

Alvarez said with the funds raised from Warz VIII: Kontra and other planned MMA events, Trench Tech will acquire a new 15-ton air-conditioner from Toshiba.

"It is our commitment and goal to continue to bring top-caliber MMA events to our islands and at the same time promote our local island warriors and help them excel in the sport of mixed martial arts... hence our adage: 'long live the island warriors and long live MMA!'"

On the issue of Rick "2 Slick" San Nicolas' no show against Ton "Butdosa" Sablan in their super heavyweight fight in Trench Warz VII, Alvarez said the South Syde Syndicates fighter will not be suspended.

"He won't be suspended, it was a family emergency and everything was cleared. In fact he will be fighting on July 12 as the main event," he said.

The event Alvarez is referring to See CUKI on Page 28